

SUPERMAN

SUPERMAN

Post-**CRISIS**
ON INFINITE EARTHS

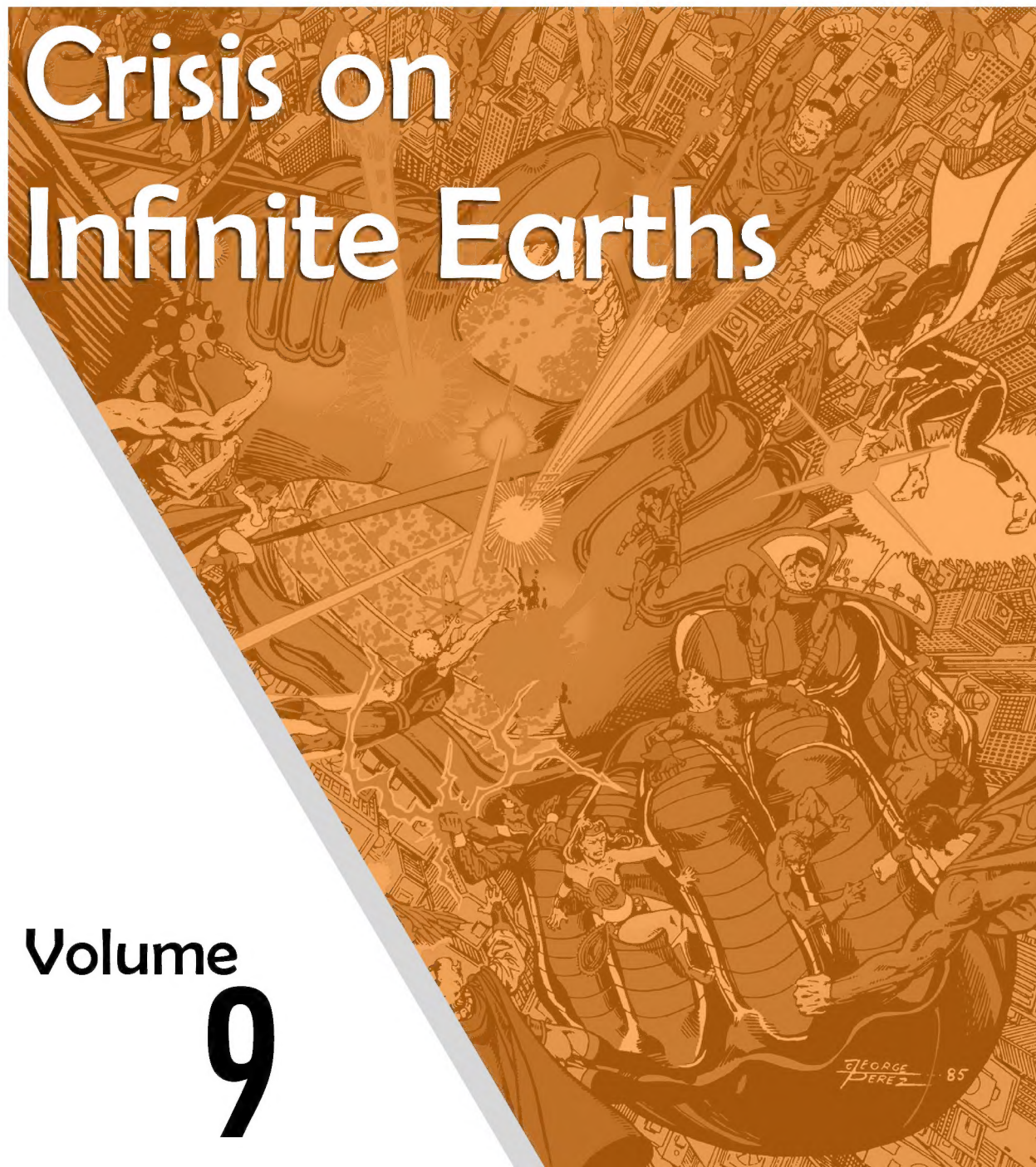
Post-**CRISIS**

Crisis on Infinite Earths

Crisis on Infinite Earths

Volume
9

9



**WORLD'S
FINEST:
YEAR
FOUR**

UNDERWORLDS

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writer

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editor

BATMAN created by BOB KANE • SUPERMAN created by SIEGEL & SHUSTER

SEVEN YEARS AGO.

YOUR
DINNER,
SIR.

HM.

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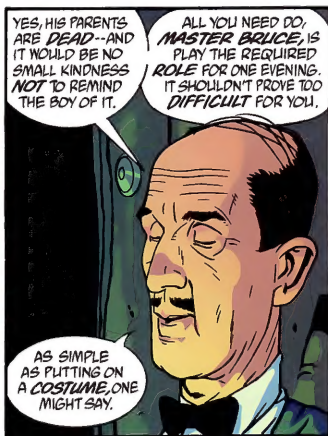


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AH, SINCE I HAVE YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION--THE **SCHOOL PLAY** MASTER DICK IS IN OPENS AT WEEK'S END. **ALL** THE CAST MEMBERS' PARENTS WILL BE ATTENDING.

I'M NOT HIS PARENT ALFRED.



YES, HIS PARENTS ARE **DEAD**--AND IT WOULD BE NO SMALL KINDNESS **NOT** TO REMIND THE BOY OF IT.

ALL YOU NEED DO, **MASTER BRUCE**, IS PLAY THE REQUIRED **ROLE** FOR ONE EVENING. IT SHOULDN'T PROVE TOO **DIFFICULT** FOR YOU.

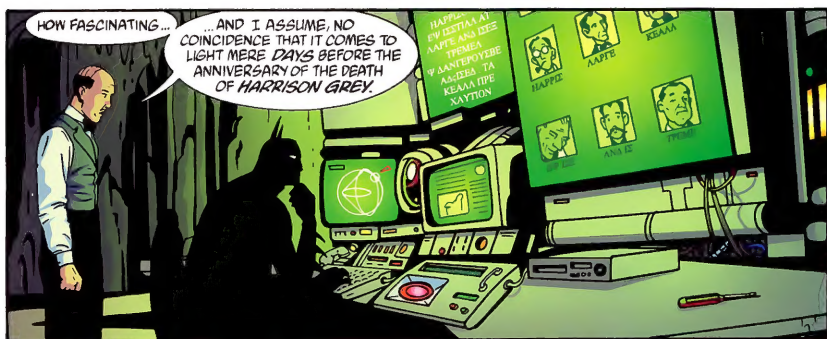
AS SIMPLE AS PUTTING ON A **COSTUME**, ONE MIGHT SAY.



NO PROMISES. SOMETHING'S COME UP. SOMEONE'S TAPPING INTO **MILITARY SURVEILLANCE SATELLITES**.

OTHER THAN YOU, SIR?

SOMEONE IN METROPOLIS'S **SUICIDE SLIM**. THEY'VE BEEN WATCHING **SUPERMAN**.



HOW FASCINATING...

...AND I ASSUME, NO COINCIDENCE THAT IT COMES TO LIGHT MERE DAYS BEFORE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF HARRISON GREY.



IF I MAY, SIR--HIS DEATH **WASN'T** YOUR FAULT. THERE'S NO NEED TO **OBSESS** ON IT.

LORD KNOWS YOU HAVE ENOUGH TO OBSESS ON ALREADY...

GREY WOULD BE **ALIVE** IF SUPERMAN AND I HAD WORKED TOGETHER. IT'S PROBABLY THE ONE THING WE BOTH **AGREE** ON.

HIS **BLOOD** IS ON OUR HANDS. I CAN'T **FORGET** THAT...CAN'T **IGNORE** THAT...

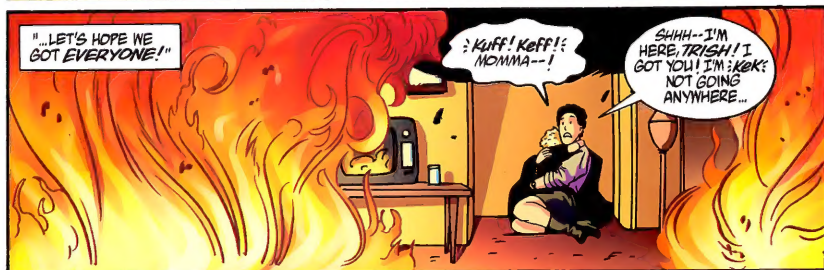


I'M GOING TO **METROPOLIS**.



BECAUSE IT'S
SUICIDE SLUM DOESN'T
MEAN MY MEN HAVE TO COMMIT
SUICIDE! NO ONE GOES BACK IN
THAT TINDERBOX 'TIL IT'S
UNDER CONTROL!

WE CLEARED
IT OUT BEST WE
COULD...



"...LET'S HOPE WE
GOT EVERYONE!"

! KUFF! KUFF! !
MOMMA--!

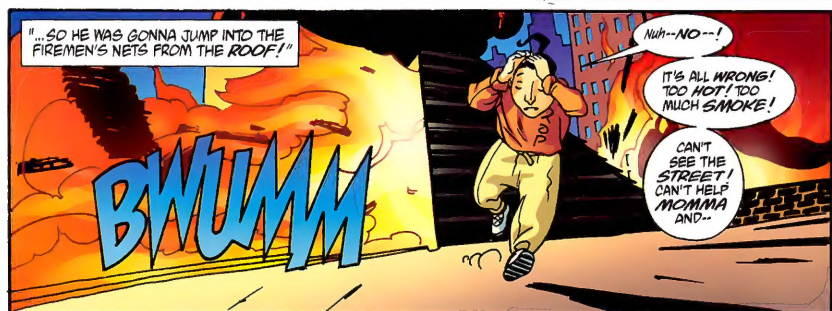
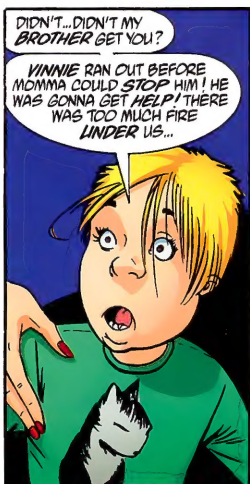
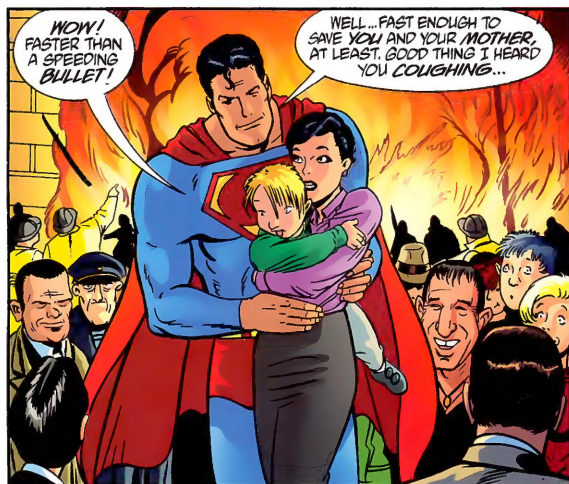
SHHH--I'M
HERE, TRISH! I
GOT YOU! I'M--Kek?
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE...

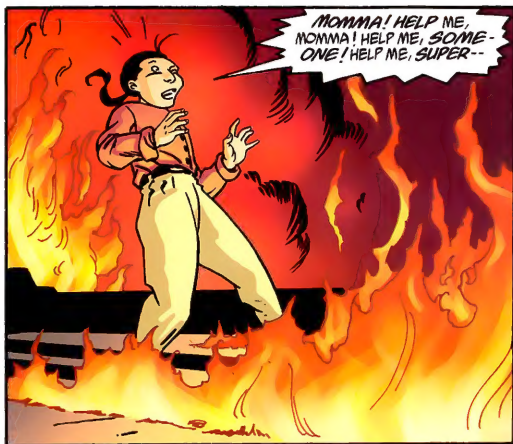


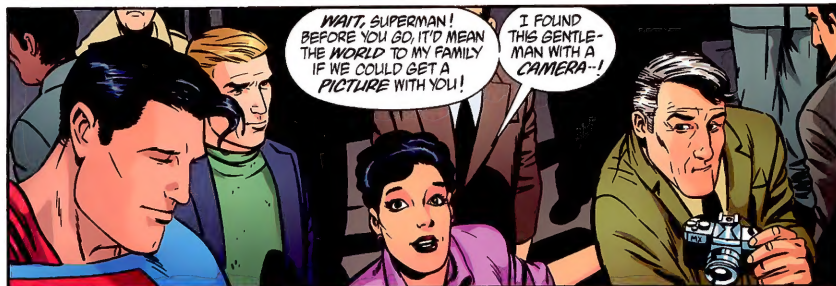
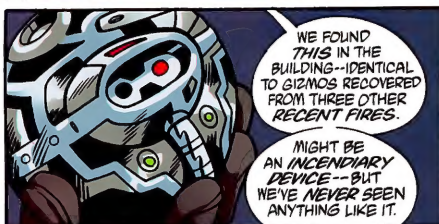
ACTUALLY,
MISS...

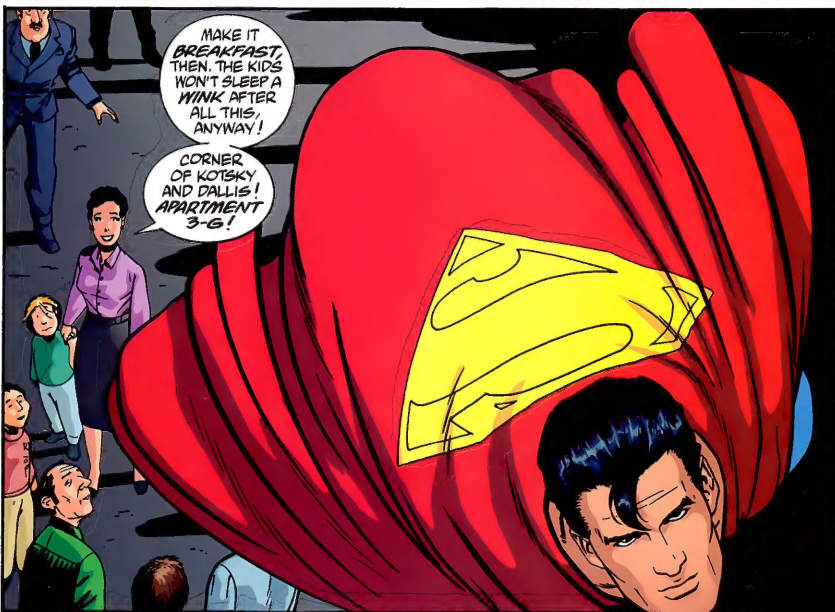
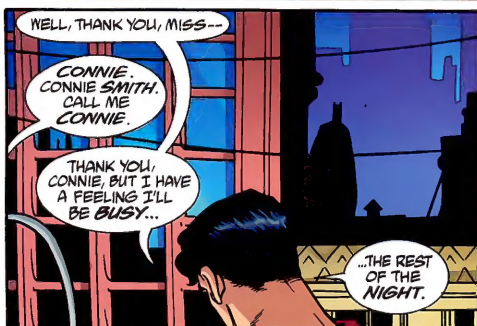
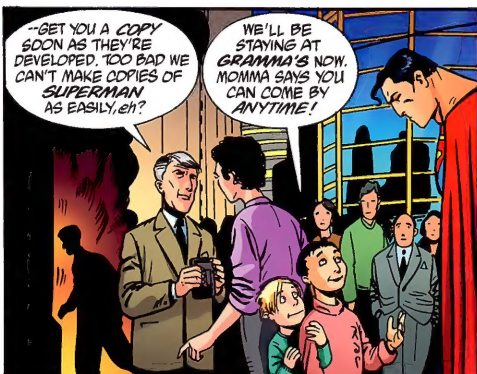


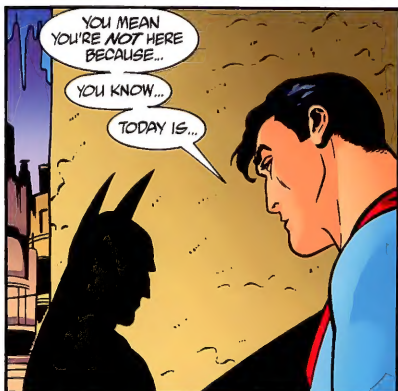
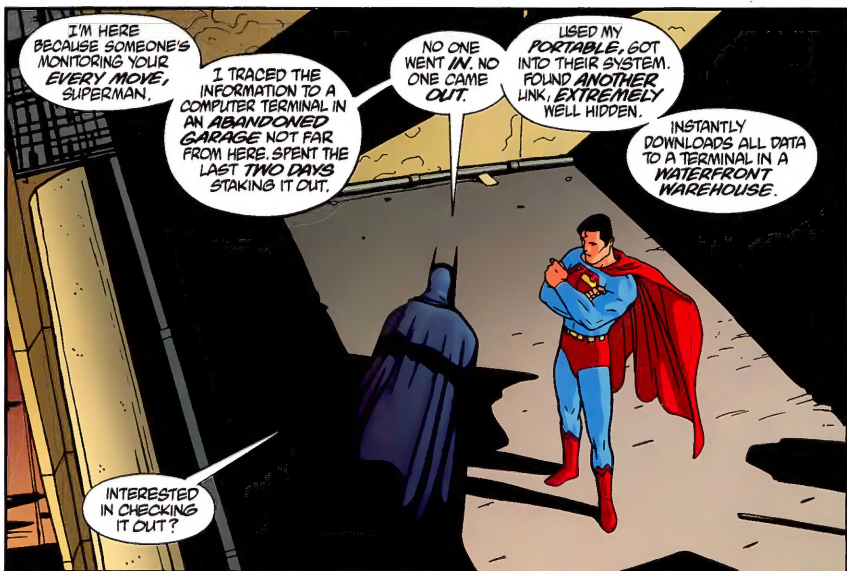
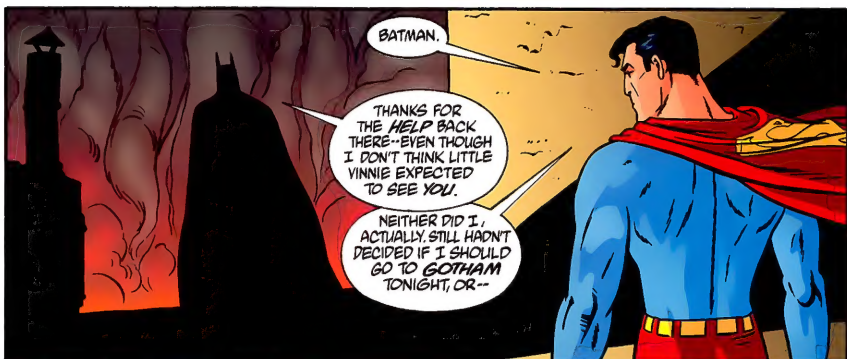
...I'M HOPING
I CAN CHANGE
YOUR MIND
ABOUT THAT!



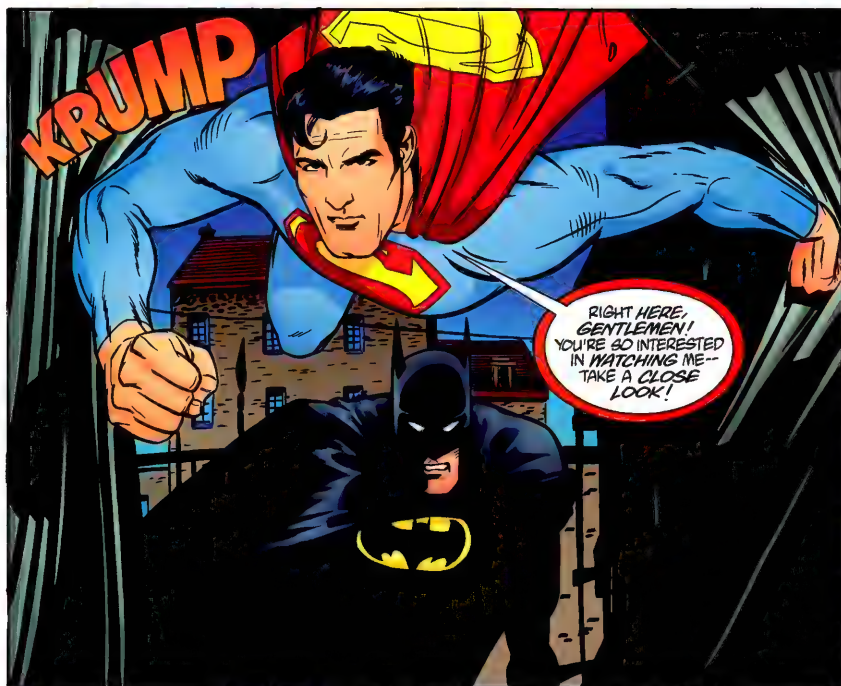
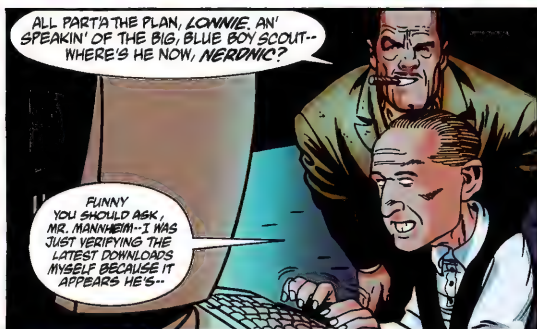


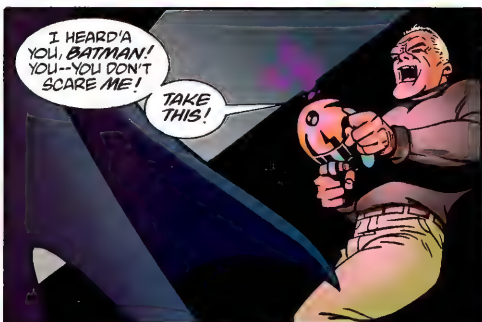
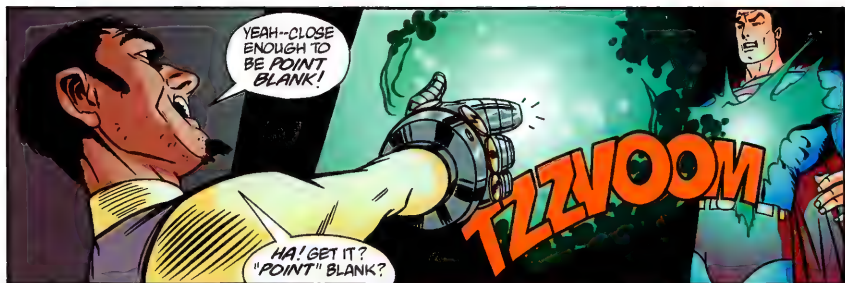














HELLO, SUH-SUPERMAN...



TAKES CARE OF THE HIRED HELP...

YOU KNOW, I THINK WE'RE GETTING THE HANG OF THIS "WORKING TOGETHER" THING!

WHOLE DEAL'S GONE SOUR!



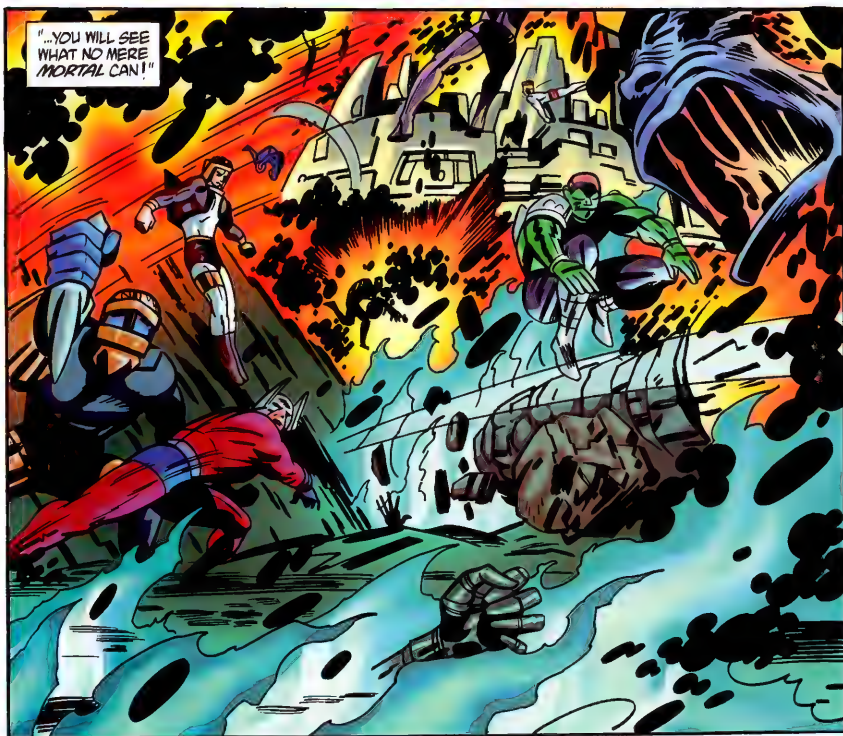
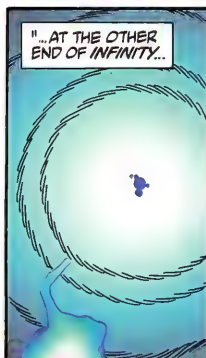
YOU AN' ME BETTER MAKE OURSELVES SCARCE, DESAAD! GET READY TA PHASE OUT--!

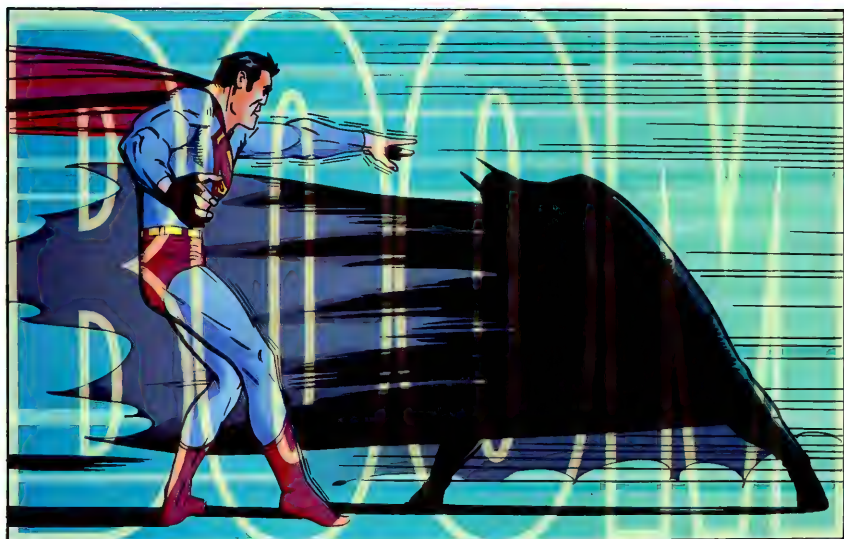
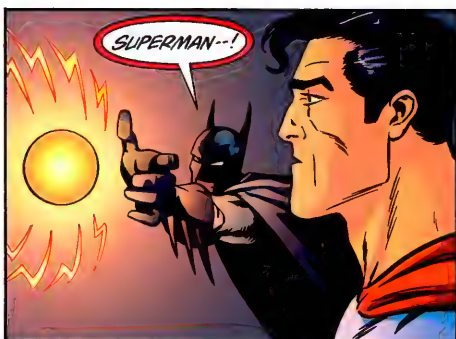


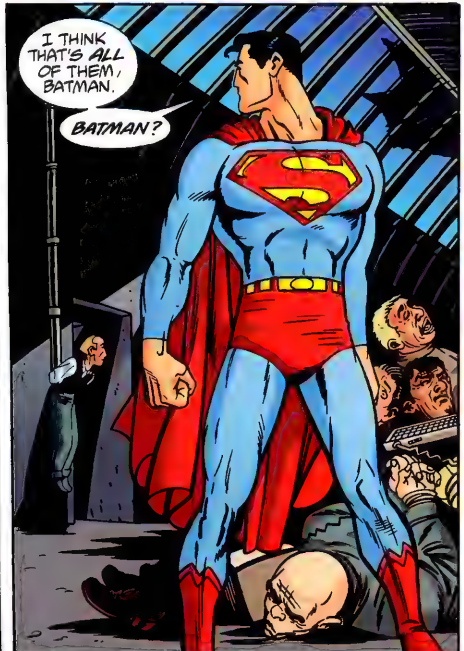
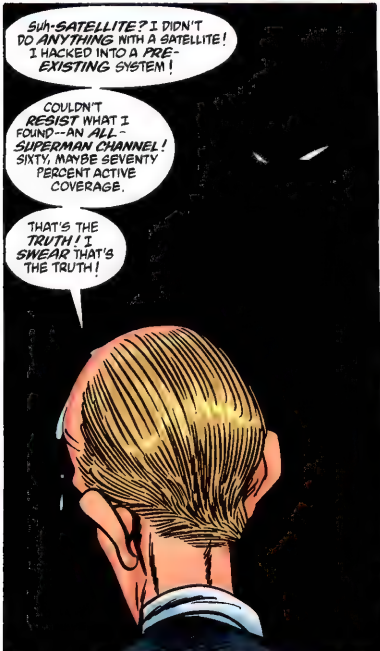
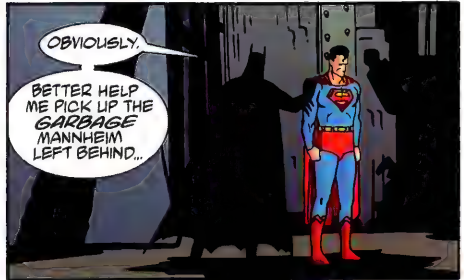
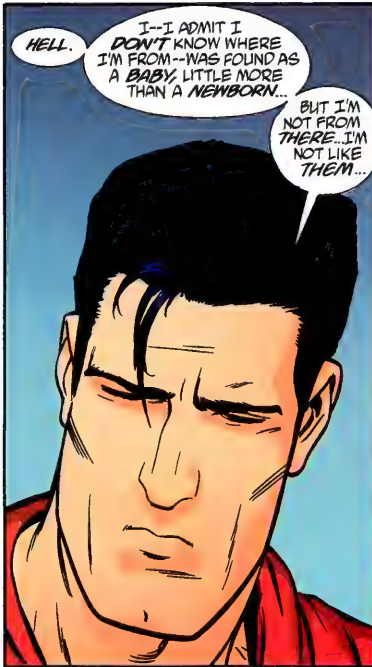
A MOMENT, MANNHEIM...

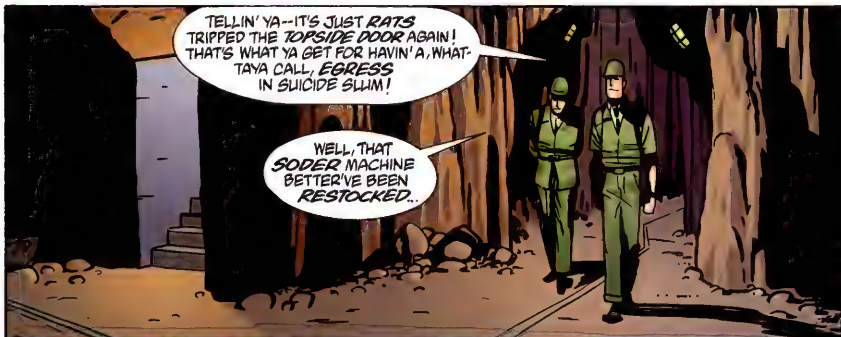
YOU! YOU'RE ONE OF US, AREN'T YOU?

EXCUSE ME--?

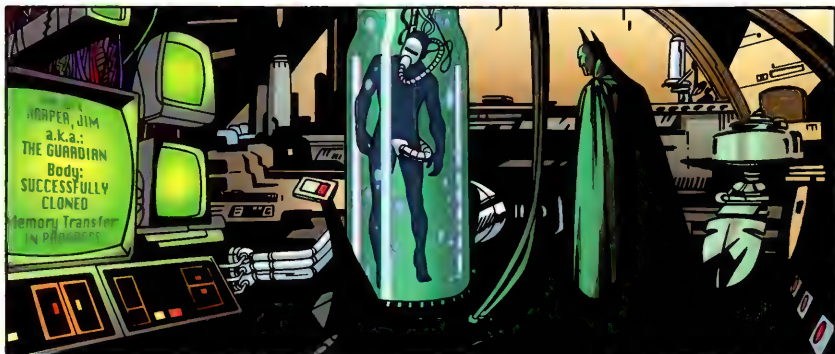
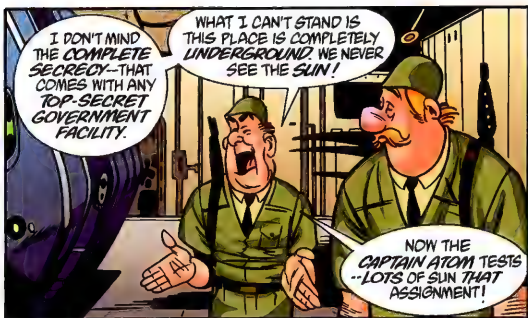


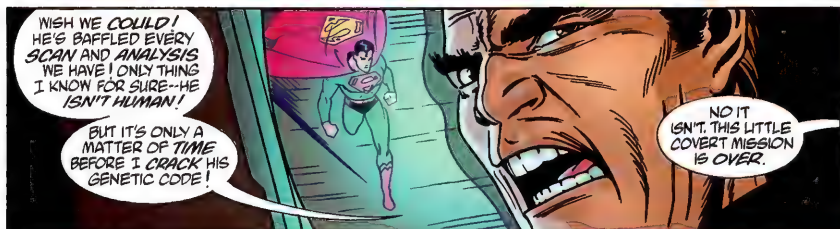
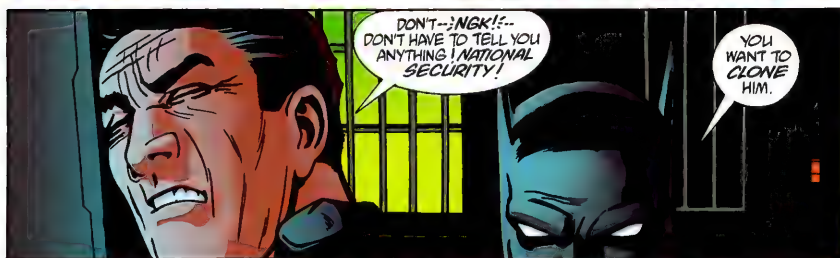














YOU CAN'T--
:NGHK!:

KRESH

YOU DIDN'T SEE
ME EARLIER, WHEN
YOU TOOK PICTURES
OF SUPERMAN IN SUICIDE
BLUM. YOU DIDN'T SEE
ME COME IN HERE...

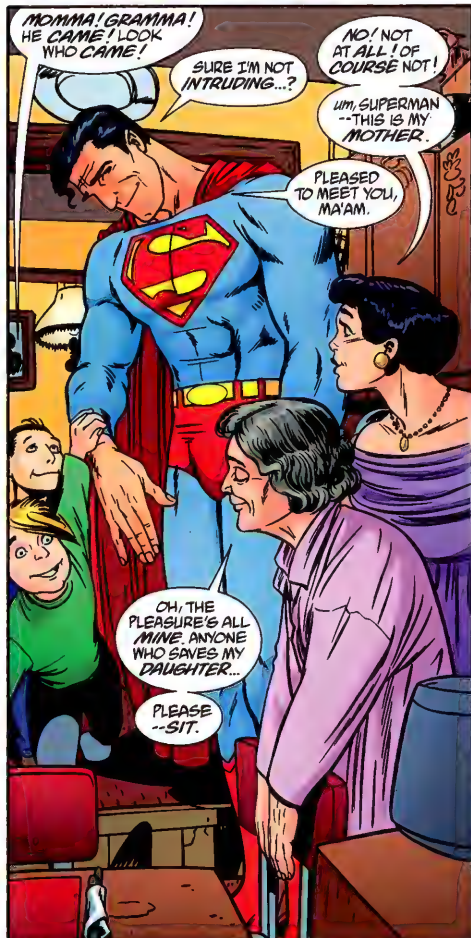


...AND YOU WON'T SEE ME
NEXT TIME. YOU'LL NEVER
KNOW WHAT HIT YOU.

DOWNLOAD EVERYTHING
AND GIVE IT TO ME. NO COPIES,
NOTHING LEFT BEHIND.

SPY ON
SUPERMAN
AGAIN--I'LL KNOW,
AND I'LL SHUT
THIS PLACE
DOWN.

GET TO
WORK.



MOMMA! GRAMMA!
HE CAME! LOOK
WHO CAME!

SURE I'M NOT
INTRUDING...?

NO! NOT
AT ALL! OF
COURSE NOT!

UM, SUPERMAN
--THIS IS MY
MOTHER.

PLEASD
TO MEET YOU,
MA'AM.

OH, THE
PLEASURE'S ALL
MINE. ANYONE
WHO SAVES MY
DAUGHTER...

PLEASE
--SIT.



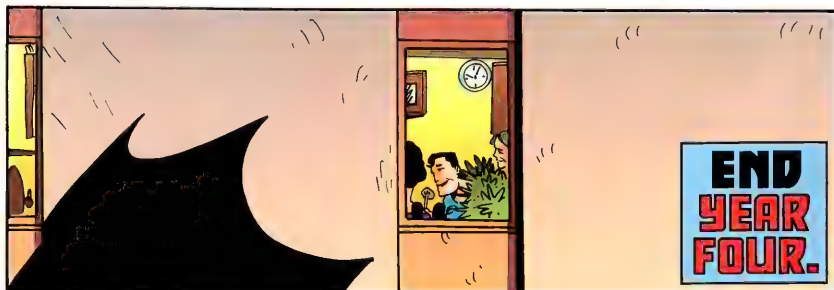
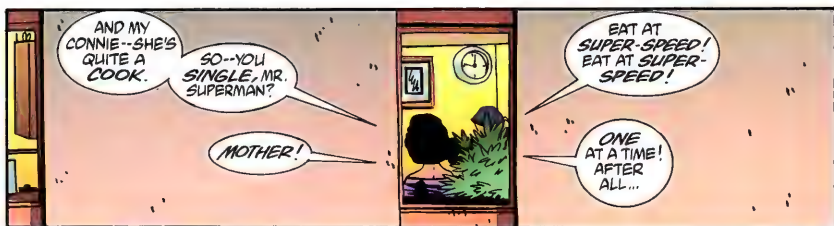
MY! HE'S EVEN
BIGGER THAN
YOU SAID,
CONNIE!

MOTHER!



IGNORE HER. HOPE
YOU'RE HUNGRY...

ACTUALLY, I
DID WORK UP QUITE
AN APPETITE,
OVERNIGHT...





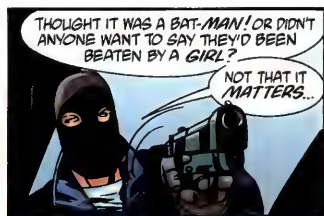
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WORLD'S FINEST: YEAR FIVE

A WOMAN'S WORK

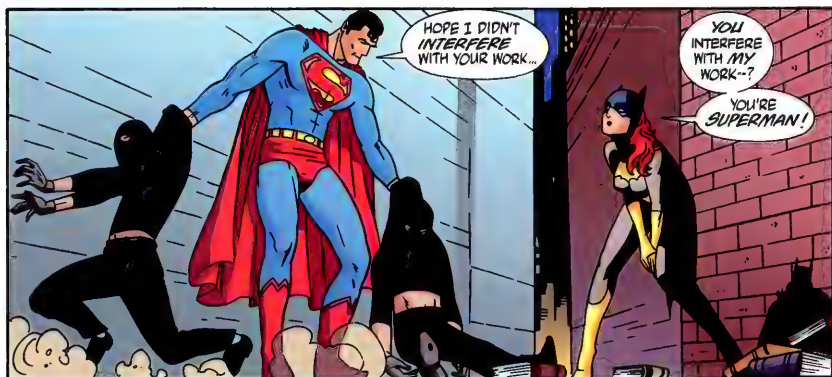
KARL KESSEL • words
DAVE TAYLOR & JON MORGAN • pencils
ROBERT CAMPANELLA • inks
ALEX SINCLAIR • color/separators
CLEM ROBERTS • letters
JOSEPH ILLIDGE • assoc. ed.
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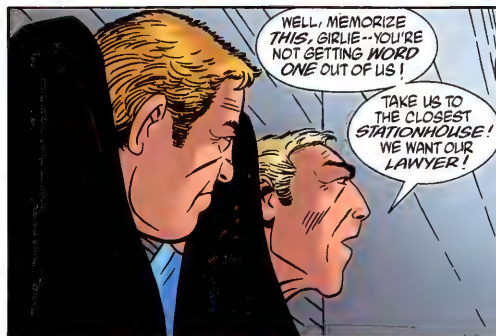
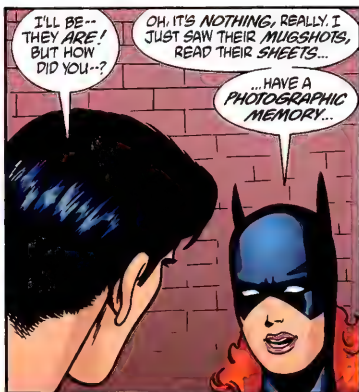
LOOKING FOR THIS?

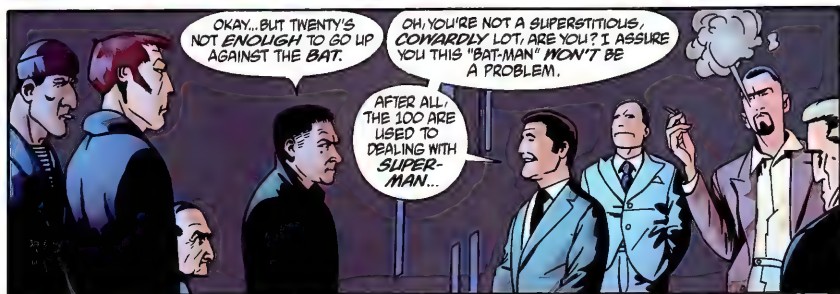
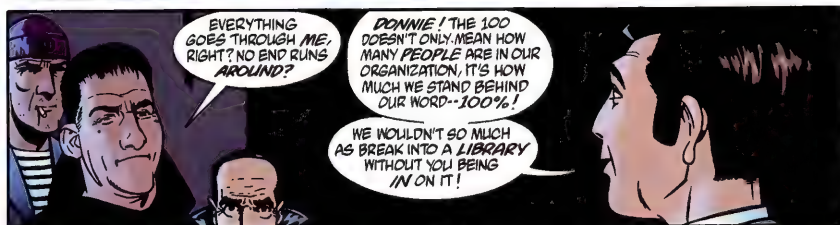
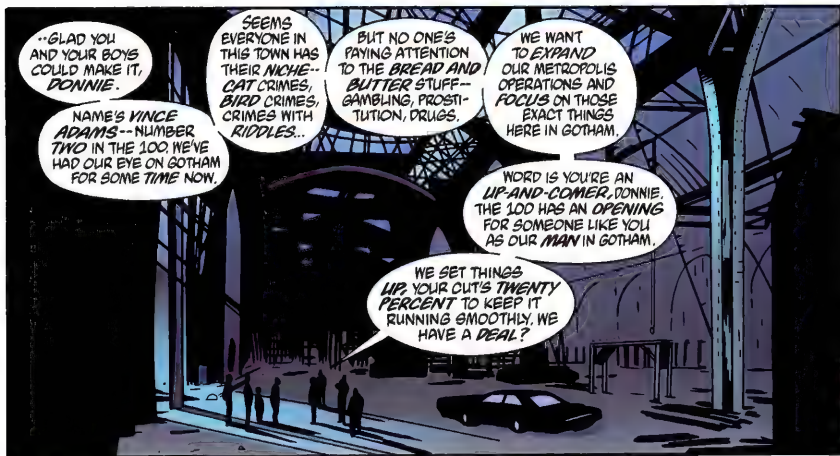


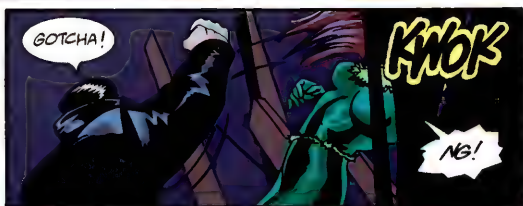
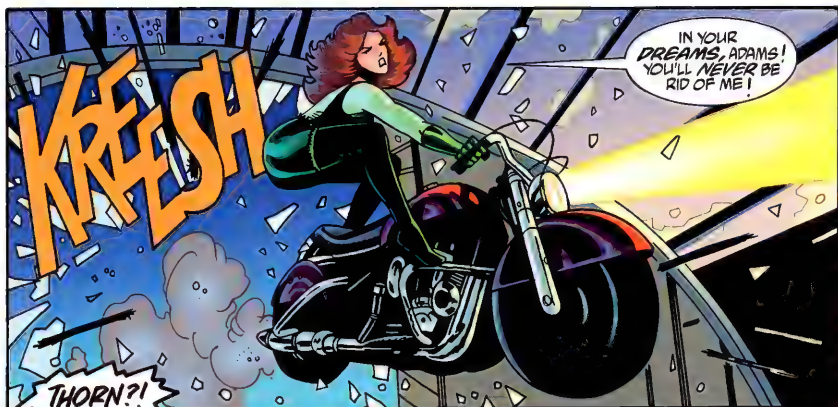
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BARRY KITSON &
PETER DOHERTY

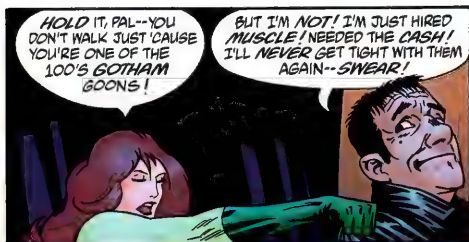
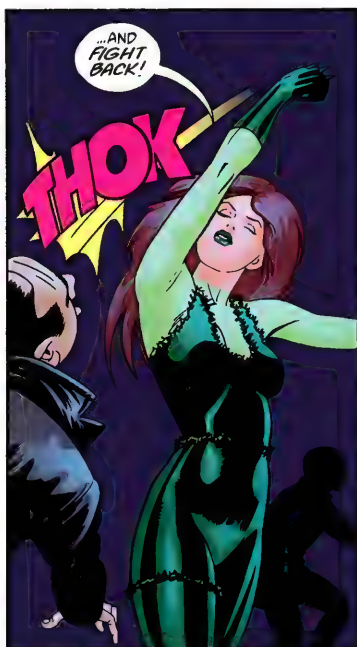
BATMAN created
by BOB KANE
SUPERMAN created by
SIEGEL & SHUSTER

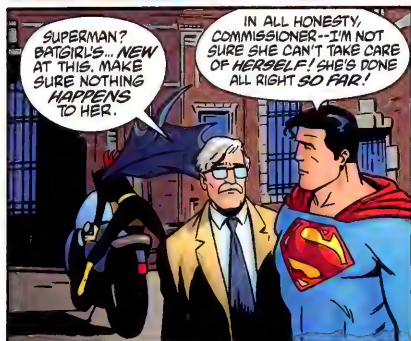
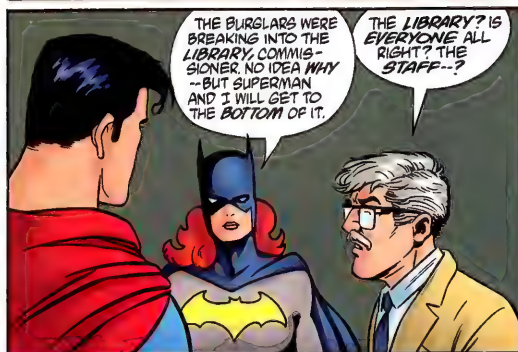


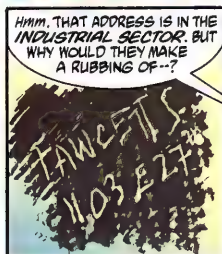
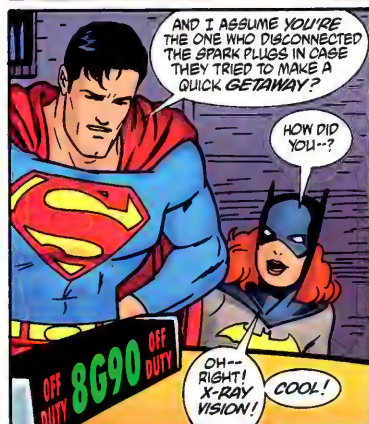
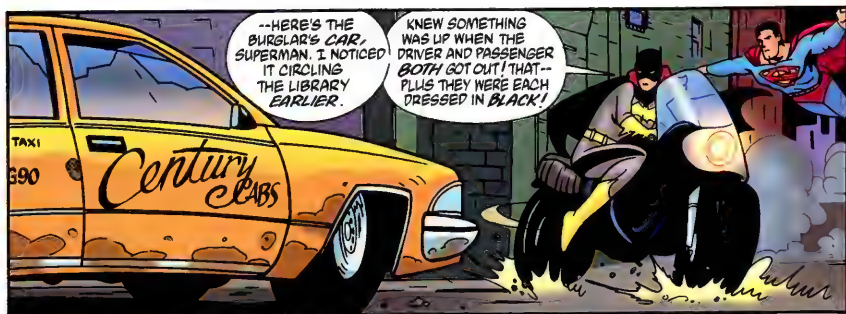








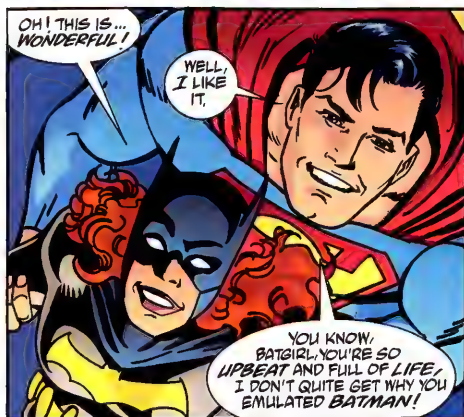






IT'LL BE
A LOT FASTER MY
WAY!

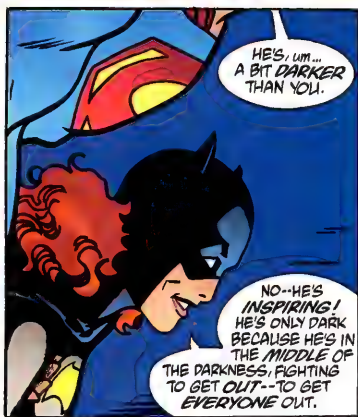
OH--!



OH! THIS IS...
WONDERFUL!

WELL,
I LIKE
IT.

YOU KNOW,
BATGIRL, YOU'RE SO
UPBEAT AND FULL OF LIFE,
I DON'T QUITE GET WHY YOU
EMULATED BATMAN!



HES, UM...
A BIT DARKER
THAN YOU.

NO--HES
INSPIRING!
HE'S ONLY DARK
BECAUSE HE'S IN
THE MIDDLE OF
THE DARKNESS, FIGHTING
TO GET OUT--TO GET
EVERYONE OUT.

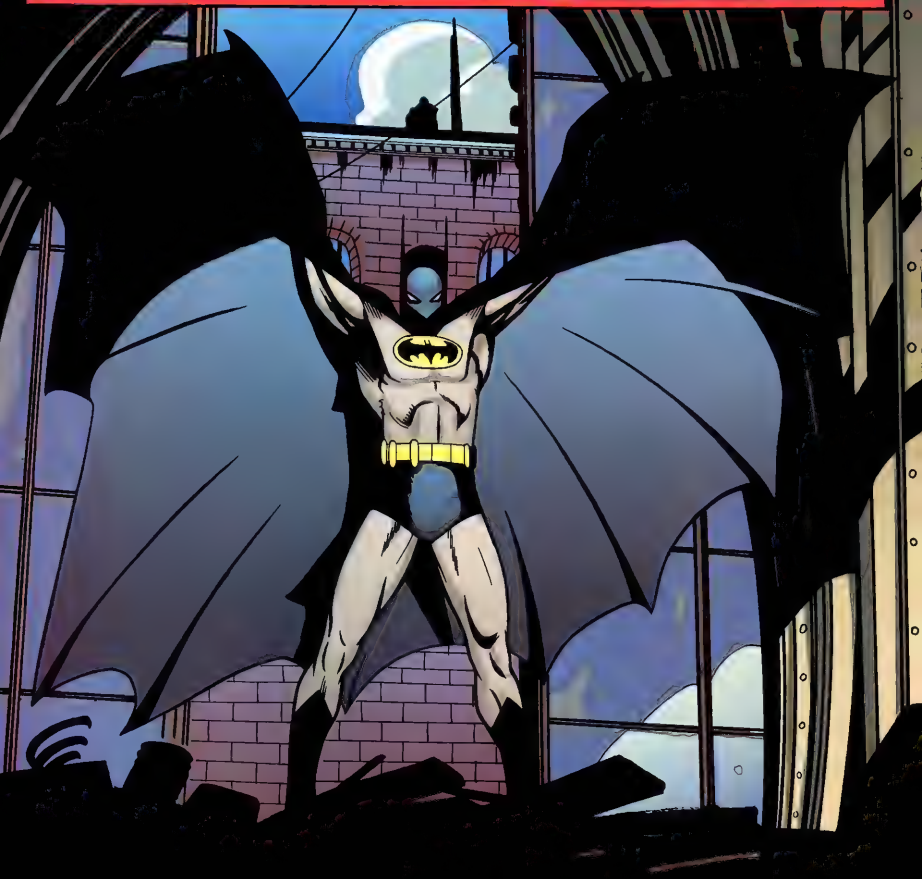
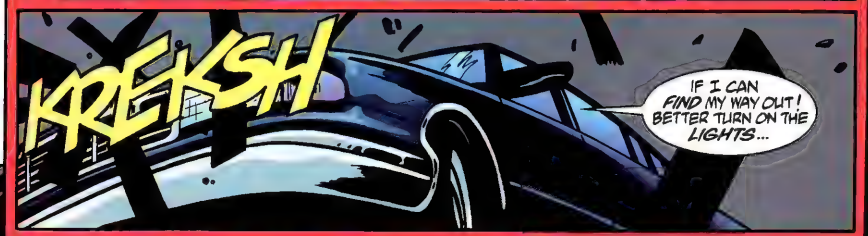


HE SEES THE LIGHT
IN THE DISTANCE...

...SOMETIMES I THINK
HE'S THE ONLY ONE IN
GOTHAM WHO CAN.











NOWHERE!
NOWHERE!

I GIVE UP! I
SURRENDER!



YOU DON'T
GET OFF THAT
EASY

HE **WON'T**. WE'LL HAND
HIM OVER TO THE AUTHOR-
ITIES AND THE **LAW** WILL
TAKE ITS COURSE.



YOU THINK THE **LAW** MATTERS
TO THE 100? THEY'LL **BRIBE** OR
BLACKMAIL THEIR WAY OUT!
THEY'LL KILL ANYONE WHO
GETS IN THEIR WAY! **GOOD**
PEOPLE! **COPS**! **FATHERS**!

THEY
SHATTER
LIVES! YOU
DON'T KNOW
WHAT THAT'S
LIKE!



I KNOW IT'S ALL YOU CAN
THINK ABOUT. THAT YOU
HAVE TO MAKE SURE IT
NEVER HAPPENS **AGAIN**--
NOT TO ANYONE **ELSE**.

THAT YOU'RE DRIVEN
BY A NEED SO **DEEP** AND
SO **STRONG**--SOMETIMES
YOU THINK IT'LL TEAR
YOU **APART**.

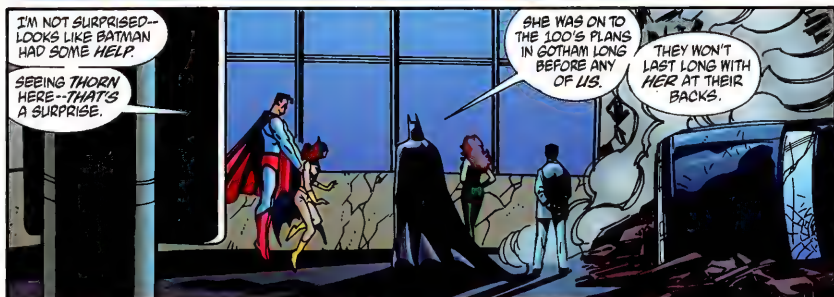


SOMETIMES...

...SOMETIMES
IT **DOES** TEAR
YOU **APART**.



OH--DON'T
TELL ME WE
MISSED
ALL THE
ACTION!



I'M NOT SURPRISED--
LOOKS LIKE BATMAN
HAD SOME HELP.

SEEING THORN
HERE--THAT'S
A SURPRISE.

SHE WAS ON TO
THE 100'S PLANS
IN GOTHAM LONG
BEFORE ANY
OF US.

THEY WON'T
LAST LONG WITH
HER AT THEIR
BACKS.



I STILL
CAN'T FIGURE
OUT WHAT THEY
WERE AFTER BACK
AT THE LIBRARY.
THE RARE
BOOK COL-
LECTION?

I DON'T
BELIEVE THE 100
WERE GOING TO TAKE
ANYTHING...



...WERE
YOU, PUNK?

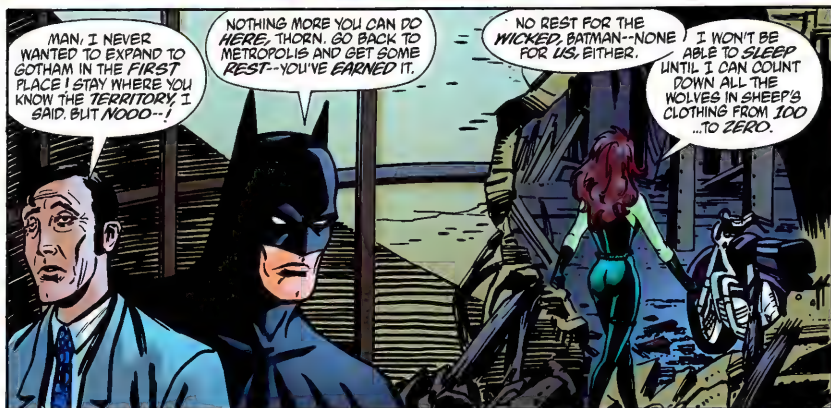
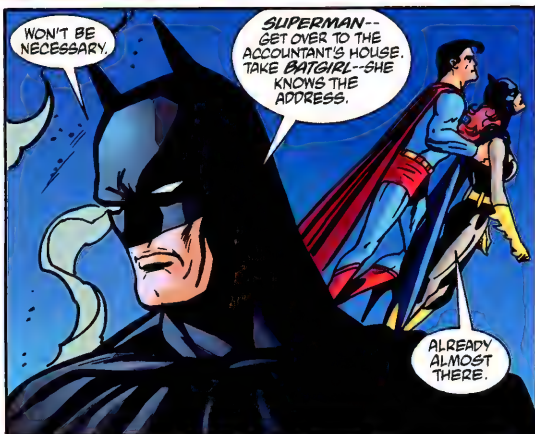
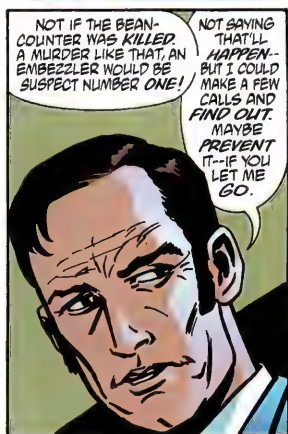
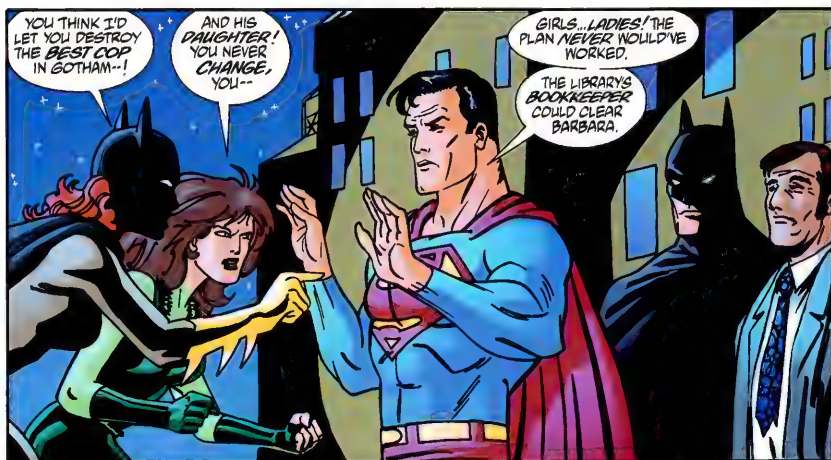
THAT--THAT'S RIGHT! WE
WERE GOING TO PUT SOME
FILES IN THEIR COMPUTER
SYSTEM--BURY THEM SO
DEEP, NO ONE'D KNOW
UNLESS I TOLD, SAY, A
REPORTER WHERE
THEY WERE!

YOU...YOU
WERE GOING TO
BLACKMAIL...A
LIBRARIAN?

HER FATHER! POLICE
COMMISSIONER GORDON
WOULD'VE DONE ANY-
THING TO PROTECT
HIS LITTLE GIRL!

WITH
HIM IN
OUR POCKET,
THE 100 COULD
WALK ALL OVER
THIS TOWN!

WOULD'VE
MADE IT LOOK LIKE
BARBARA GORDON
WAS EMBEZZLING
LIBRARY FUNDS!



DING-DONG DING-DONG DING-DONG DING







GET THERE IN TIME?

YES. EVERY YEAR WHEN WE GET TOGETHER, SOMETHING LIKE THIS ALWAYS COMES UP, DOESN'T IT?

SOMETHING ALWAYS COMES UP EVERY NIGHT.



I SUPPOSE...

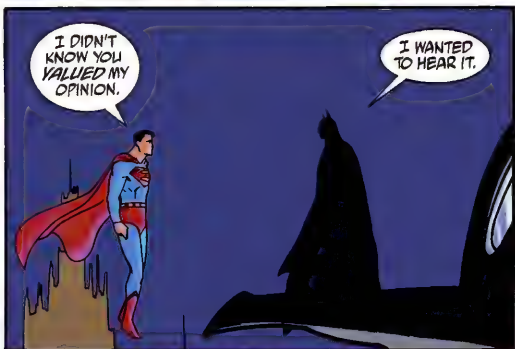
BATGIRL'S A BRIGHT YOUNG LADY. I THINK SHE'LL DO FINE.

YOU'RE RIGHT-- SHE *DOESN'T* NEED YOU TO TRAIN HER ANYMORE. BUT I WAS GLAD TO CHECK UP ON HER FOR YOU.



I *KNOW* SHE DOESN'T NEED ANY MORE TRAINING--OR I'D STILL BE DOING IT, AND I *DIDN'T* ASK YOU TO "CHECK UP" ON HER.

I JUST WANTED TO KNOW YOUR...*OPINION* OF HER.



I DIDN'T KNOW YOU VALUED MY OPINION.

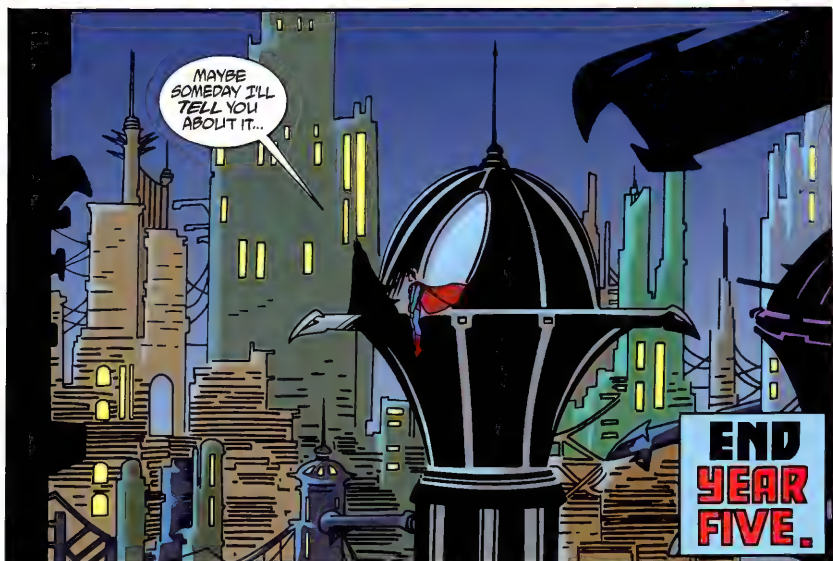
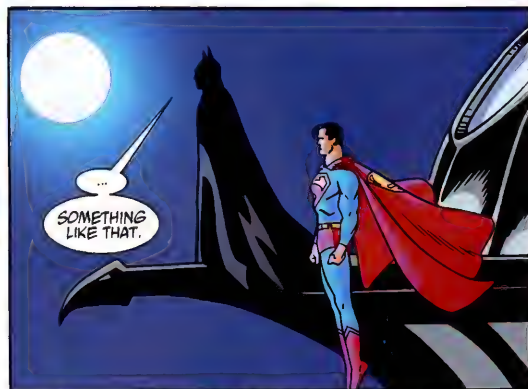
I WANTED TO HEAR IT.



DO YOU THINK I'M WRONG ABOUT BATGIRL?

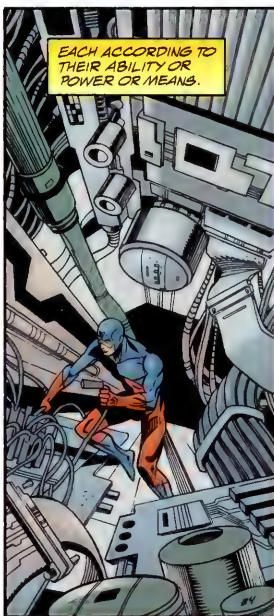


NO.





THEY EACH
CONTRIBUTE.



EACH ACCORDING TO
THEIR ABILITY OR
POWER OR MEANS.



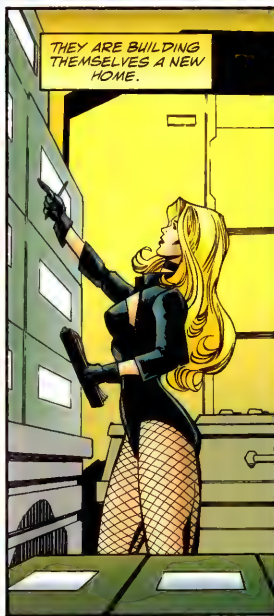
ACCORDING TO
THEIR KNOWLEDGE
AND EXPERTISE.



IT IS NOT GLAMOROUS
WORK BUT IT IS
NECESSARY.



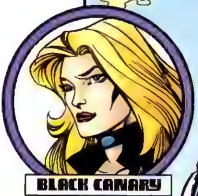
FOR IT IS SOMETHING
THAT AFFECTS THEM
ALL.



THEY ARE BUILDING
THEMSELVES A NEW
HOME.



GREEN LANTERN



BLACK CANARY



MARTIAN MANHUNTER



THE FLASH



GREEN ARROW



AQUAMAN



THE ATOM



HAWKMAN



ZATANNA



FIRESTORM



SUPERMAN
RESERVE MEMBER



BATMAN
RESERVE MEMBER

A HOME THAT RIDES IN GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT 22,300 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH, THE NEW SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE RENOWNED JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

THE LOCATION OF THEIR OLD HEADQUARTERS HAD BEEN DISCOVERED AFTER THEIR PROTÉGÉ, SNAPPER CARR, HAD BEEN MANIPULATED AND BRAINWASHED BY A PSYCHOPATHIC WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING--THE JOKER, PRETENDING TO BE THE COMMON MAN.

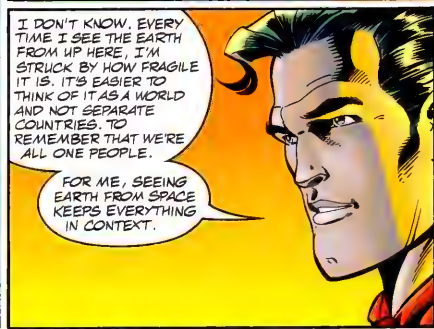
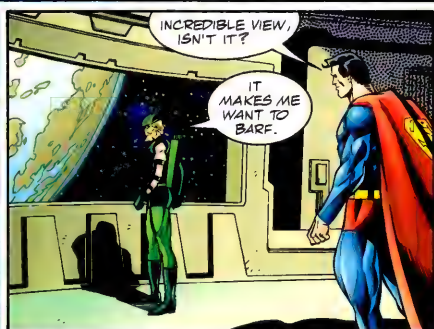
IN TRUTH, HOWEVER, THE LEAGUE HAD ALREADY OUTGROWN THE FORMER JUSTICE CAVE. IT NO LONGER REALLY SERVED ITS FUNCTION, AND THEY HAD GROWN IN SIZE AND IMPORTANCE.

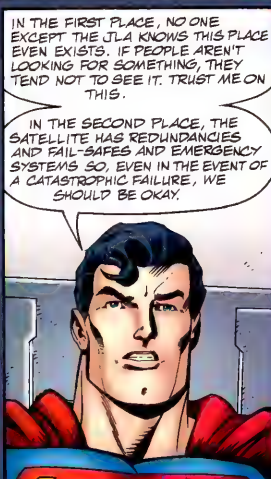
THIS SATELLITE, BUILT WITH COMBINED OAN AND MARTIAN TECHNOLOGY, PAID FOR WITH RICHES BROUGHT FORTH FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, ABLE TO TELEPORT ITS MEMBERS TO AND FROM THE BRIGHT BLUE PLANET BELOW--THIS WAS THE LEAGUE NOW, FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

ACCORDING TO SOME, THE LEAGUE AT ITS FULLEST FLOWERING. TO OTHERS, AT ITS MOST GRANDIOSE, FOR NOT EVERYONE APPROVED.

LIKE A TOMBSTONE IN THE SKY

JOHN OSTRANDER WRITER	VAL SENEKENS PENCILLER	PRENTIS ROLLINS INKER	JOHN KALISZ COLORIST	HERBIE AGE SEPARATIONS	KEN LOPEZ LETTERMAN	STEVE WALKER ASSISTANT EDITOR	DAN RASPLER EDITOR
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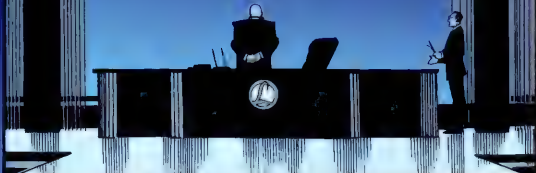


"WHAT IF SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LIKE THE LEAGUE DOES FIND OUT ABOUT THIS TIN CAN--SOMEONE WITH THE MONEY, POWER, AND INFLUENCE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?"

METROPOLIS--HOME OF SUPERMAN AND SEVERAL MILLION OTHERS. SOME ARE RICH, SOME ARE POOR, SOME ARE POWERFUL, SOME ARE POWERLESS.

ONE OF THE INHABITANTS HAS MONEY, POWER, AND INFLUENCE AND DOES NOT LIKE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE. THAT MAN IS LEX LUTHOR.

THIS WAS CONSIDERED HIS CITY--SOLELY HIS CITY--UNTIL SUPERMAN SHOWED UP. SINCE THEN, LUTHOR HAS FOUGHT A NEVER-ENDING, IF SUB-ROSA, BATTLE TO DESTROY OR DISCREDIT THE MAN OF STEEL--AND HIS ALLIES.



YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT THING IS UP THERE?

WELL, MR. LUTHOR, A-AS CERTAIN AS I CAN BE NOT HAVING SEEN IT. ALL THE SOURCES ARE VERY RELIABLE, SIR. MOST RELIABLE.

I DON'T LIKE IT, HAPPENSEN. NOT ONE BIT.

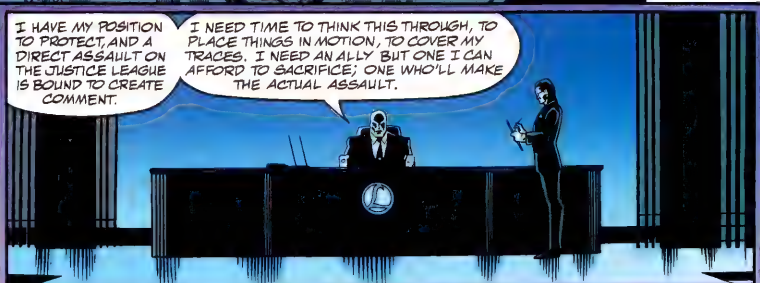
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA THAT THEY ARE HANGING UP THERE LOOKING DOWN ON ME. I DON'T LIKE BEING LOOKED DOWN UPON. NOT BY THEIR KIND.

WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, MR. LUTHOR?



I HAVE MY POSITION TO PROTECT, AND A DIRECT ASSAULT ON THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS BOUND TO CREATE COMMENT.

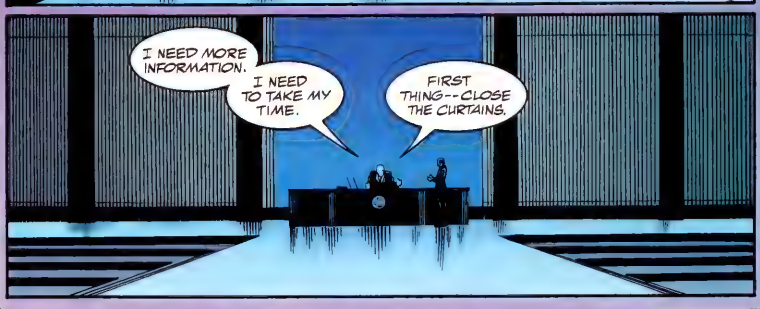
I NEED TIME TO THINK THIS THROUGH, TO PLACE THINGS IN MOTION, TO COVER MY TRACES. I NEED AN ALLY BUT ONE I CAN AFFORD TO SACRIFICE; ONE WHO'LL MAKE THE ACTUAL ASSAULT.



I NEED MORE INFORMATION.

I NEED TO TAKE MY TIME.

FIRST THING--CLOSE THE CURTAINS.



SOME TIME LATER...

GOOD EVENING. THIS IS THE WLEX SIX O'CLOCK REPORT, I'M LAWRENCE WILLIAMS AND THIS IS THIS EVENING'S TOP STORY.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA HAS FOILED AN ATTACK ON NORAD MOUNTAIN BY AN INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST WHO CALLS HIMSELF KOBRA. NORAD MOUNTAIN IS THE NERVE CENTER FOR AMERICA'S NUCLEAR RESPONSE.

HERE WITH THE DETAILS AND EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE IS OUR OWN EXPERT ON METAHUMAN AFFAIRS, TULLY REED!

KLEX



KLEX

THANKS, LARRY, AND HELLO AMERICA!

THIS AFTERNOON, WHILE SOME OF US WERE JUST GETTING BACK FROM LUNCH, THE MIGHTY JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA WAS THWARTING THE ATTEMPTS OF A MADMAN TO GET HIS FINGERS ON OUR NUCLEAR ARSENAL AND BLACKMAIL THE WORLD!



HE CALLS HIMSELF KOBRA, HIS FANATICAL FOLLOWERS CALL HIM LORD NAGA-NAGA, AND INTERPOL CALLS HIM "THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE!"



THIS SHOT OF HIM IS FROM SECURITY CAMS INSIDE NORAD HQ AND IT IS THE ONLY KNOWN LIKENESS OF THIS TERRORIST.

HIS BACKGROUND IS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY. HE'S AN AMERICAN, BORN IN INDIA, ONE OF A PAIR OF SEPARATED SIAMESE TWINS.

SHORTLY AFTER THE OPERATION ONE TWIN WAS STOLEN AWAY BY AN INDIAN SNAKE-CULT.



THEY RAISED HIM TO BE THEIR LEADER, AND BELIEVE IT IS HIS DESTINY TO RULE THE WORLD.

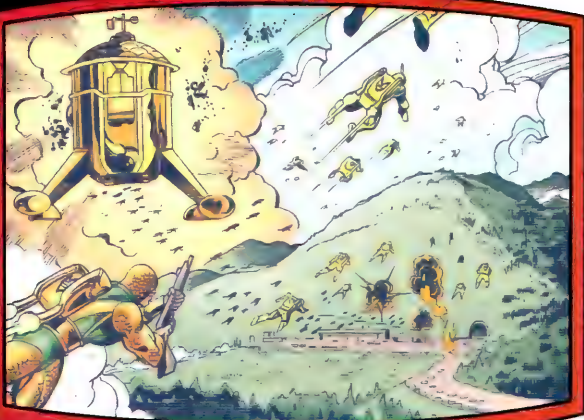
TODAY HE TRIED TO FULFILL THAT DESTINY.

ROLL TAPE!



HERE WE SEE KOBRA'S SHOCK TROOPS LAUNCHING THEIR ATTACK FROM HIS FLOATING HEADQUARTERS WHICH HE CALLS HIS "ARK!"

ACCORDING TO SOURCES, THIS ARK BENDS LIGHT AND RADAR SIGNALS, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DETECT.



THE FANATICAL MILITANTS GAINED ACCESS TO THE MOUNTAIN AND DROVE BACK THE AMERICAN TROOPS.



THIS FOOTAGE CONTAINS THE ONLY KNOWN IMAGES OF KOBRA HIMSELF. FROM IT WE'VE LEARNED THAT HIS ARMOR AND HIS STAFF ARE LACED WITH HIGH-TECH WEAPONRY.

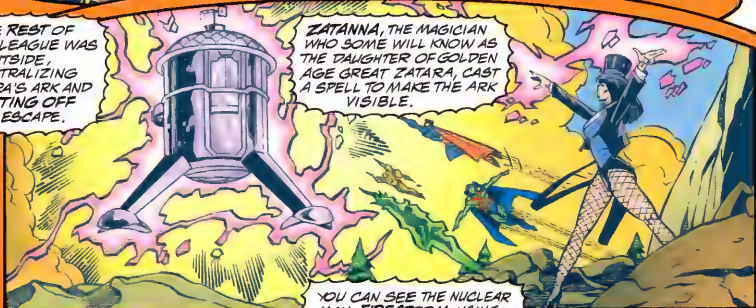
HIS ATTACK WAS QUICK, MERCILESS, AND TOTALLY WITHOUT WARNING.



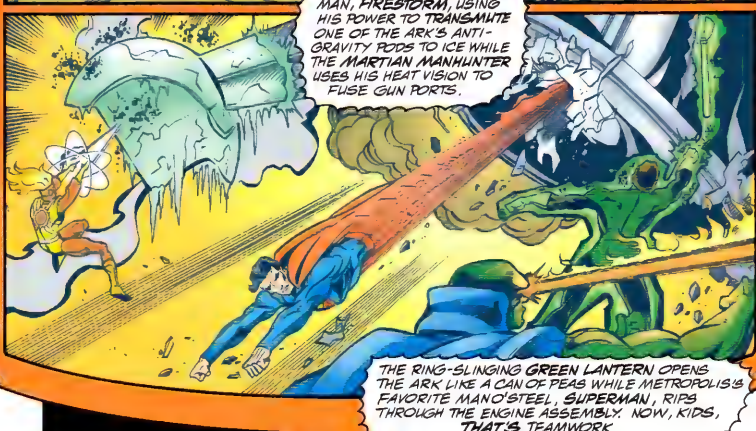


THE REST OF THE LEAGUE WAS OUTSIDE, NEUTRALIZING KOBRA'S ARK AND CUTTING OFF HIS ESCAPE.

ZATANNA, THE MAGICIAN WHO SOME WILL KNOW AS THE DAUGHTER OF GOLDEN AGE GREAT ZATARA, CAST A SPELL TO MAKE THE ARK VISIBLE.



YOU CAN SEE THE NUCLEAR MAN, FIRESTORM, USING HIS POWER TO TRANSMUTE ONE OF THE ARK'S ANTI-GRAVITY PODS TO ICE WHILE THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER USES HIS HEAT VISION TO FUSE GUN PORTS.

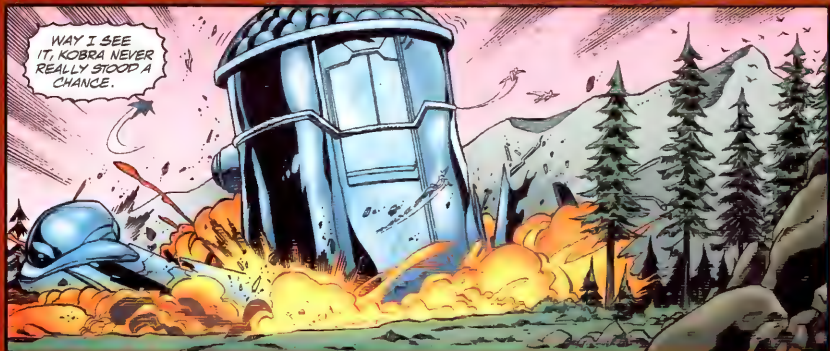


THE HEROES WERE SEVERELY
OUTNUMBERED BUT THEY HAD
SURPRISE ON THEIR SIDE--NOT
TO MENTION POWER, EXPERIENCE,
AND JUST PLAIN, OLD-FASHIONED
GUTS.



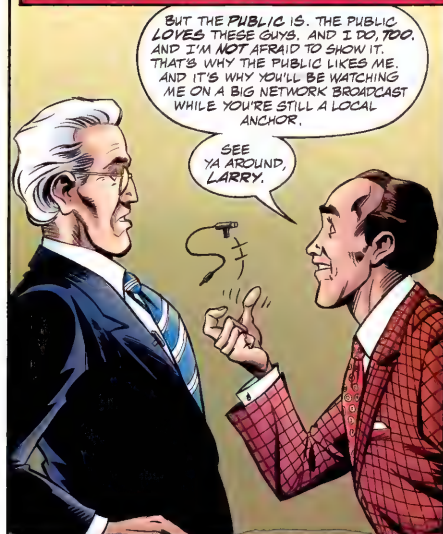
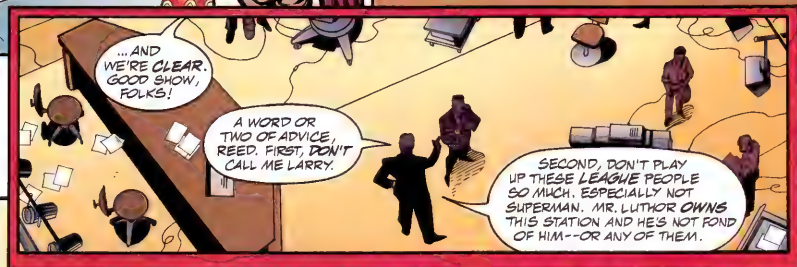
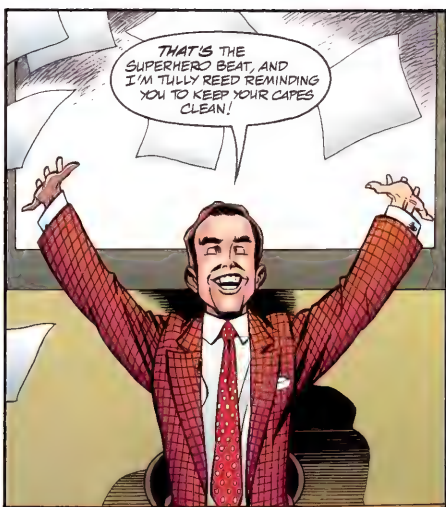
OH YEAH, AND THE
AFOREMENTIONED
TEAMWORK.

WAY I SEE
IT, KOBRA NEVER
REALLY STOOD A
CHANCE.



HE MUST HAVE SENSED THAT
EARLY ON BECAUSE HE FLED,
USING HIS FOLLOWERS TO
COVER HIS ESCAPE. BUT HE
SACRIFICED A SIGNIFICANT
AMOUNT OF HIS FORCES AND
HIS MOBILE COMMAND POST.



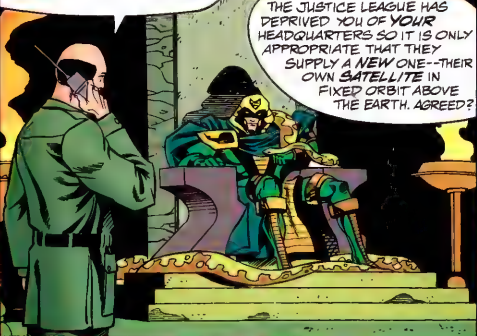


A TEMPLE IN A HIDDEN
INDIAN VALLEY, SOME
TIME LATER...

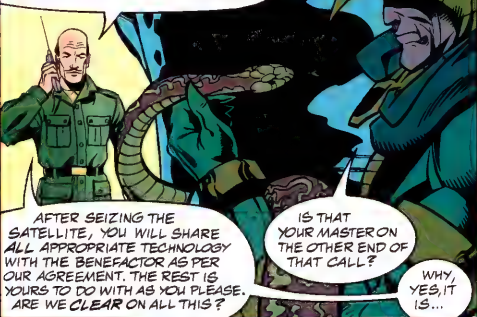
THE BENEFACITOR SAYS HE
IS **MOST** IMPRESSED AND
VERY PLEASED YOU STILL
HAVE SO MANY FOLLOWERS
TO CALL ON AFTER THE
FIASCO AT NORAD MOUNTAIN.

IF WE MAY GET DOWN TO
BUSINESS? THE BENEFACTOR
WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SURE
WE'RE ALL CLEAR AS TO
THE PLAN.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HAS
DEPRIVED YOU OF **YOUR**
HEADQUARTERS SO IT IS ONLY
APPROPRIATE THAT THEY
SUPPLY A **NEW ONE**--THEIR
OWN **SATELLITE** IN
FIXED ORBIT ABOVE
THE EARTH. AGREED?



THE BENEFACTOR HAS SUPPLIED
YOU WITH THE EXACT LOCATION
OF THE SATELLITE, AND THE TECHNOLOGY
TO GET YOUR FORCES THERE AND
APPROACH UNDETECTED. AGREED?



AFTER SEIZING THE
SATELLITE, YOU WILL SHARE
ALL APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY
WITH THE BENEFACTOR AS PER
OUR AGREEMENT. THE REST IS
YOURS TO DO WITH AS YOU PLEASE.
ARE WE **CLEAR** ON ALL THIS?

IS THAT
YOUR MASTER ON
THE OTHER END OF
THAT CALL?

WHY,
YES, IT
IS...



I WOULD
SPEAK WITH
HIM!

AHHK!

FWWT

ALL HAIL
LORD NAGA-NAGA!



THIS ISS KOBRA.
ATTEND MY WORDS.



THERE ISS
A CHANGE IN
PLANSS.



I WILL SSEIZE THE
SSATELLITE. I WILL TAKE
THOSSE ON BOARD
PRISSONER. THEY WILL
LURE UP THEIR COMRADESS
AND THEN I WILL DESSROY
THEIR FORTRESSS AND THEM.
SSUCH ISS THE FATE OF
THOSSE WHO INTERFERE
WITH THE NABA-NABA.

THE HONOR OF AIDING
ME ISS ENOUGH FOR YOU.
LOOK FOR NOTHING ELSE.

OH, ONE THING MORE--
I KILLED YOUR MAN.

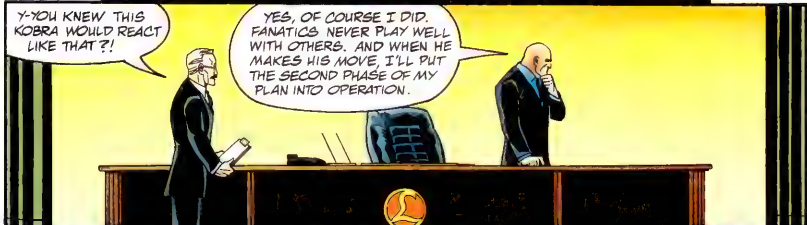


DISPOSE
OF
THESE.



HM.

PREDICTABLE.
AND THEREBY
USEFUL.



Y-YOU KNEW THIS
KOBRA WOULD REACT
LIKE THAT?!

YES, OF COURSE I DID.
FANATICS NEVER PLAY WELL
WITH OTHERS. AND WHEN HE
MAKES HIS MOVE, I'LL PUT
THE SECOND PHASE OF MY
PLAN INTO OPERATION.



Y-YOU KNEW WHAT
THEY W-WOULD DO
TO POOR CARLISLE,
SIR?

WHO? OH, CARLISLE. NO,
I DIDN'T. MAKE SURE HE
HAS A GOOD FUNERAL,
HAPPENSEN. HE WAS
USEFUL.

SEATTLE. THE FLORIST SHOP OWNED BY DINAH (BLACK CANARY) LANCE AND THE APARTMENT ABOVE IT WHICH SHE SHARES WITH THE MAN SHE LOVES...



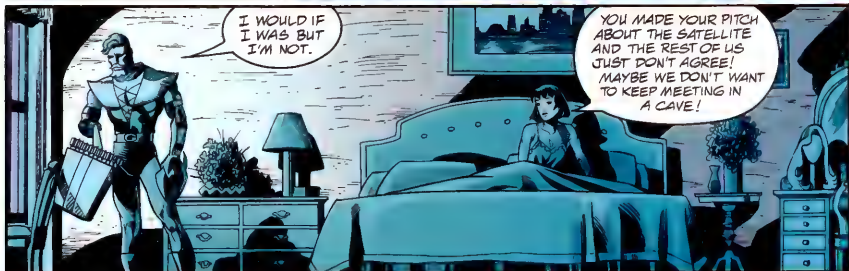
... A TROUBLED OLIVER (GREEN ARROW) QUEEN.



YOU DON'T GIVE UP, DO YOU? NEVER CONCEDE DEFEAT.



I WOULD IF I WAS BUT I'M NOT.



THE LEAGUE HAS TO GROW AND CHANGE TO LIVE! YOU CAN'T STOP IT AND YOU CAN'T CONTROL IT, OLIVER!



SLAM!



... SO, DESPITE THE FINE RECORD THAT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HAS RACKED UP, YOU CLAIM THAT THE LEAGUE ISN'T DOING ENOUGH. IS THAT RIGHT, ARROW?



NOT EVERY VILLAIN RUNNING AROUND IN THIS COUNTRY HAS A COSTUME AND A GIMMICK. SOME WEAR THREE-PIECE SUITS OR CLERICAL COLLARS OR A JUDGE'S ROBES.

DOESN'T MAKE 'EM LESS EVIL OR THREATENING TO THE COMMON GUY OR TO THE LIFE OF THIS PLANET! OR THAT WE--AS INDIVIDUALS OR AS THE LEAGUE--SHOULD IGNORE THEM!



SO--YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE LEAGUE SHOULD BECOME MORE PROACTIVE ON SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES?



HELL YES! TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU! THERE'S FAMINE, "ETHNIC CLEANSING," CIVIL WARS THAT DISPLACE WHOLE NATIONAL POPULATIONS!

IF SOME OF US CAN "CHANGE THE COURSE OF MIGHTY RIVERS" SHOULDN'T WE BE DOING IT TO HELP DROUGHT-RAVAGED AREAS?! ISN'T MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ALL ABOUT?!



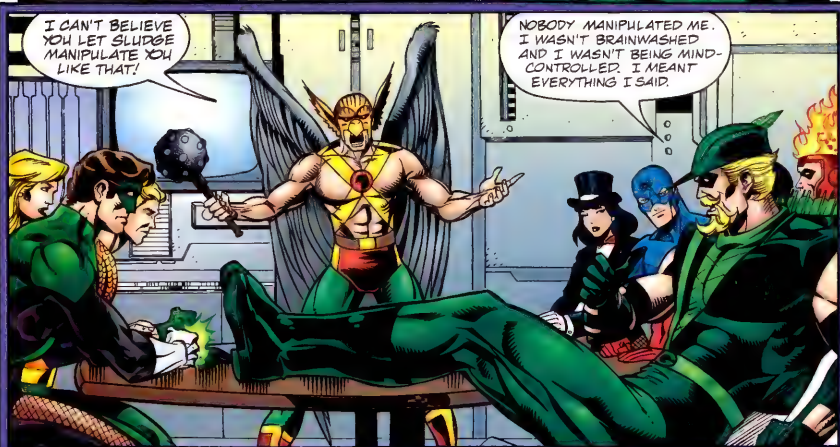
AREN'T THERE SOMETIMES POLITICAL ISSUES AT STAKE? SOME MAY NOT WANT THE LEAGUE'S ASSISTANCE. SHOULDN'T THE LEAGUE RESPECT DULY-ELECTED GOVERNMENTS?



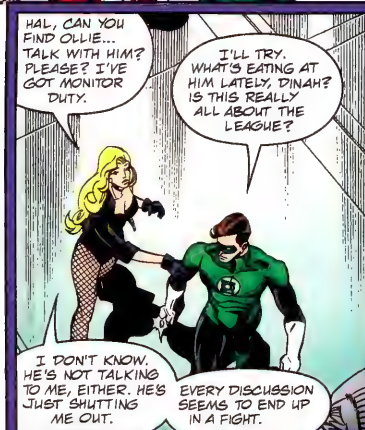
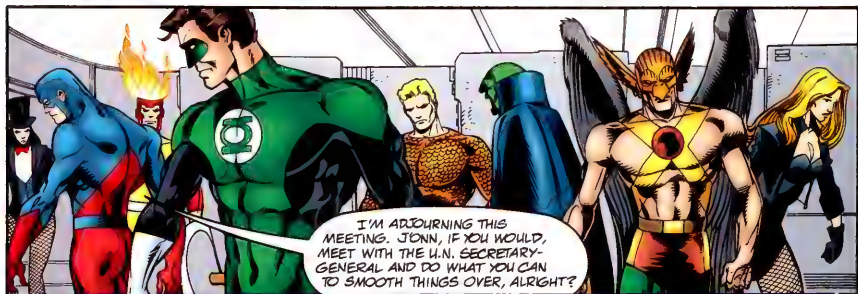
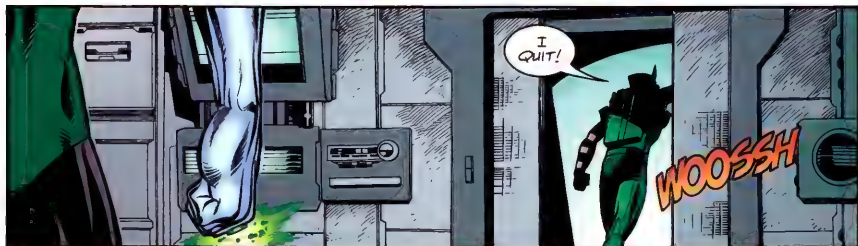
ANY GOVERNMENT THAT IS NOT ACTING IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE IT GOVERNS IS, IN MY BOOK, IPSO FACTO A ROGUE GOVERNMENT!

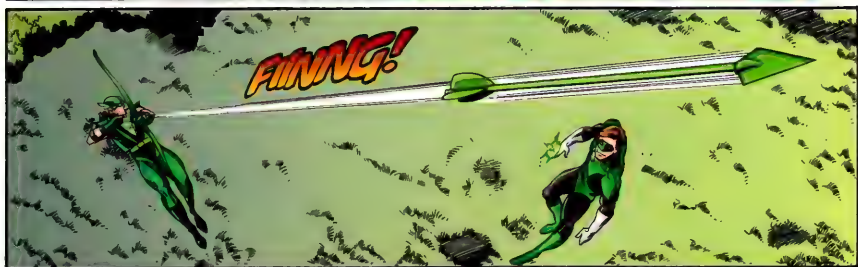
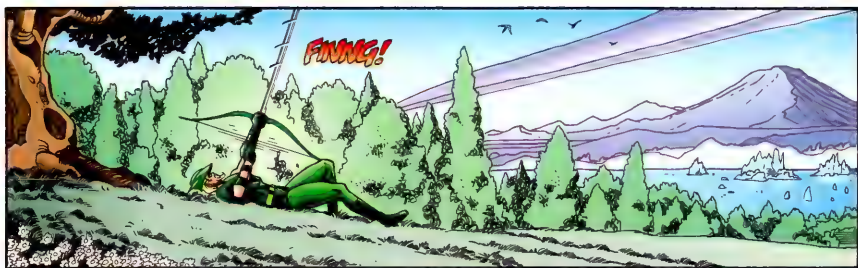
WE'RE THE LEAGUE! WE'RE ABOVE POLITICAL BULL! WE SHOULD JUST ACT AND LET THE DIPLOMATS AND BUREAUCRATS WORK IT OUT LATER!











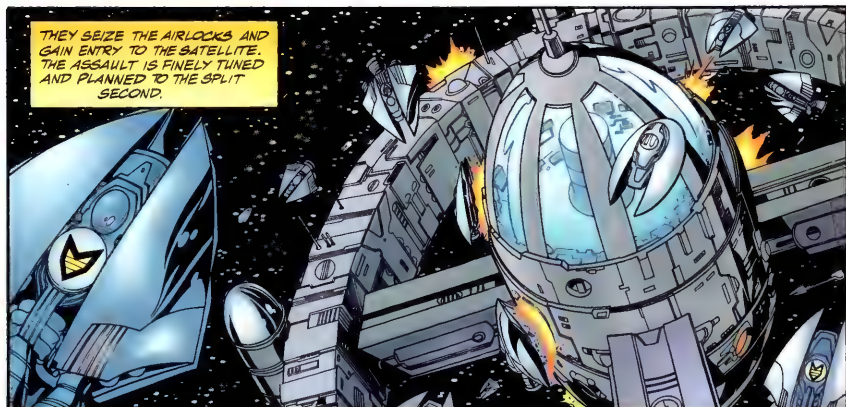




THE SATELLITE IS
UNDER ATTACK BY
DOZENS OF SHIPS.
INSIGNIA MATCHES THAT
OF KOBRA. NEITHER
SCREENS NOR AUTOMATIC
DEFENSES ARE RESPONDING!

THEY'RE ABOUT TO
BOARD THE SATELLITE!
GUYS, I COULD USE
SOME HELP FAST!





THEY SEIZE THE AIRLOCKS AND GAIN ENTRY TO THE SATELLITE. THE ASSAULT IS FINELY TUNED AND PLANNED TO THE SPLIT SECOND.



THE CULT OF KOBRA IS CENTURIES OLD. TO ITS ADHERENTS, THE MODERN INCARNATION OF NAGA-NAGA, THEIR LEADER, IS THE VERY AVATAR OF THEIR ANCIENT GOD.

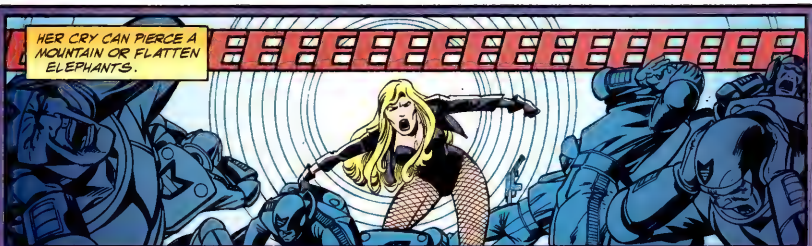
HE HAS DRAGGED THEM HISSING AND FLAILING INTO THIS CENTURY WITH ITS MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND UNBLINKING FAITH IN SCIENCE.



BLACK CANARY IS STILL IN HER TWENTIES.

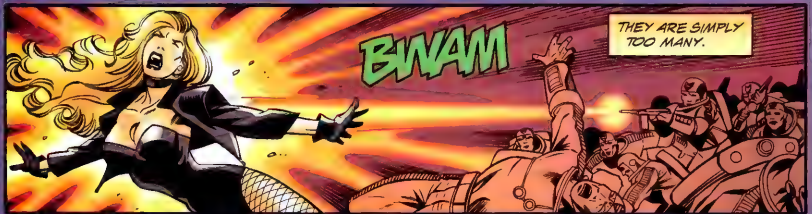
SHE IS THE SECOND GENERATION TO CARRY THAT NAME, ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE JLA. AND SHE IS ALMOST AS FORMIDABLE AS THE KOBRA CULT IS NUMEROUS.

HER CRY CAN PIERCE A MOUNTAIN OR FLATTEN ELEPHANTS.



BWAM

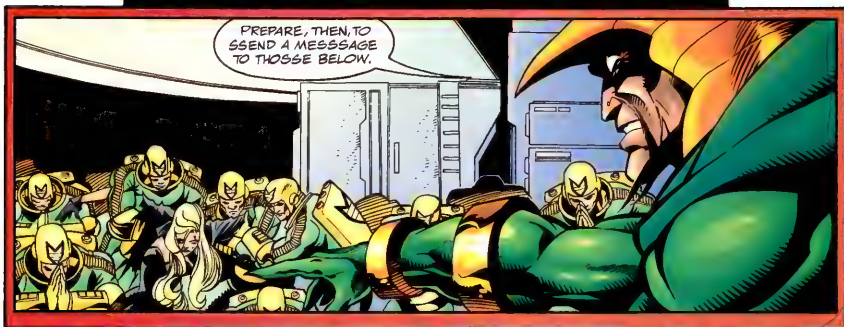
THEY ARE SIMPLY TOO MANY.



DOES THE FEMALE STILL LIVE?

YES, LORD NAGA-NAGA.





PREPARE, THEN, TO
SEND A MESSAGE
TO THOSE BELOW.



GET ME
TO THE
SATELLITE,
HAL!

I
THOUGHT
YOU QUIT
THE
LEAGUE.



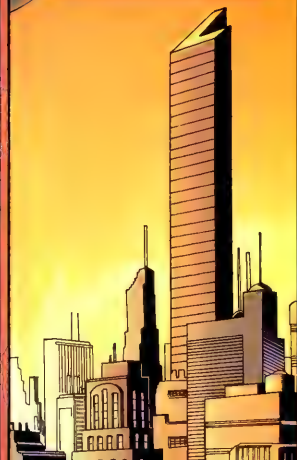
THAT'S MY LADY
UP THERE! NOBODY
IS DOING NOTHING
WITHOUT ME!



FAIR
ENOUGH.
I...

ATTENTION, ALL JUSTICE
LEAGUERS! THIS IS THE ATOM,
CURRENT CHAIRMAN, SPEAKING!
DO NOT--REPEAT--DO NOT GO
TO THE SATELLITE!

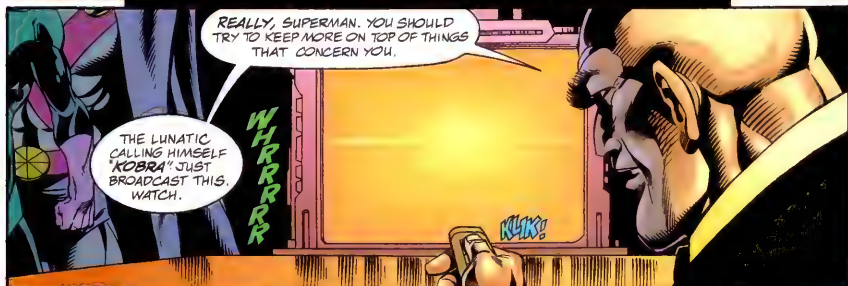
"INSTEAD, RENDEZVOUS WITH ME
AT LEXCORP CORPORATE HEAD-
QUARTERS IN METROPOLIS! IT IS
VITAL THAT NO ONE ATTACKS THE
SATELLITE ON THEIR OWN!"





...AND I WAS SHOCKED, SHOCKED, TO LEARN SOME LEXCORP TECHNOLOGY HAS EVIDENTLY BEEN STOLEN AND MISAPPROPRIATED BY THIS MADMAN IN HIS ATTACK ON YOUR CLUBHOUSE.

AND JUST HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE ATTACK, LUTHOR? WE JUST FOUND OUT ABOUT IT OURSELVES.



REALLY, SUPERMAN. YOU SHOULD TRY TO KEEP MORE ON TOP OF THINGS THAT CONCERN YOU.

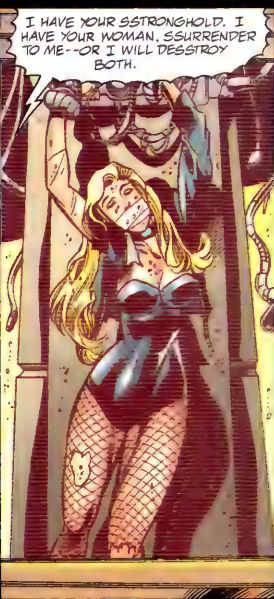
THE LUNATIC CALLING HIMSELF 'KOBRA' JUST BROADCAST THIS. WATCH.

WRRRR

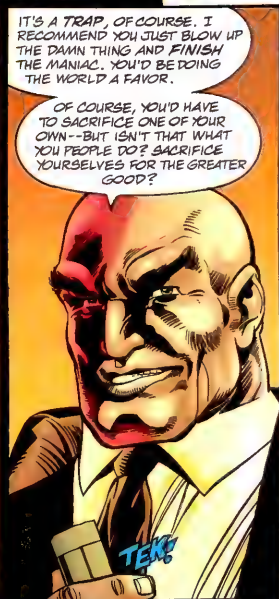
KLIK!



THIS IS KOBRA, SPEAKING TO THE SO-CALLED JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA.



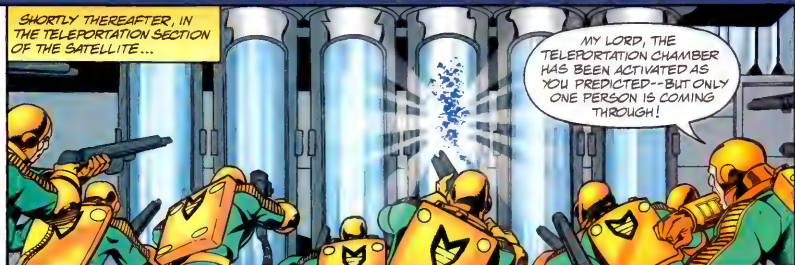
I HAVE YOUR STRONGHOLD. I HAVE YOUR WOMAN. SURRENDER TO ME--OR I WILL DESTROY BOTH.

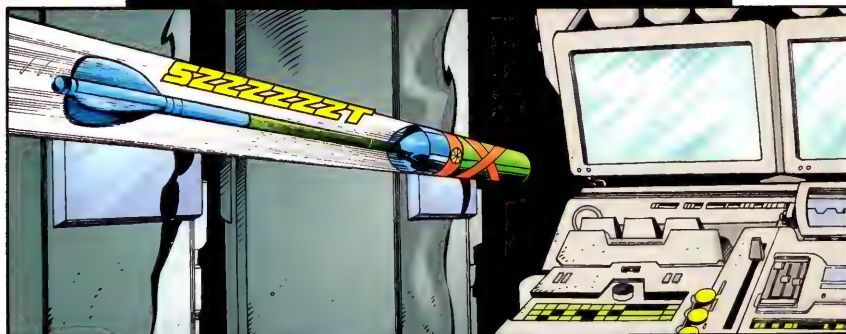


IT'S A TRAP, OF COURSE. I RECOMMEND YOU JUST BLOW UP THE DAMN THING AND FINISH THE MANIAC. YOU'D BE DOING THE WORLD A FAVOR.

OF COURSE, YOU'D HAVE TO SACRIFICE ONE OF YOUR OWN--BUT ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU PEOPLE DO? SACRIFICE YOURSELVES FOR THE GREATER GOOD?

TEK!





HEY, LORD NAGA-NAUGAHYDE. THIS IS GREEN ARROW. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE SENT ME TO DISPOSE OF YOU. ALL BY MYSELF. WE DECIDED YOU WERE TOO SECOND-RATE TO INVOLVE THE THE ENTIRE LEAGUE.

STAY WHERE YOU ARE. I'M COMING TO YOU.



FIND HIM.

BRING HIM BEFORE ME-- ALIVE.



HE DOESN'T WASTE TIME TRYING TO HIDE. THE EMERALD BOWMAN WALKS RIGHT UP TO THE ATTACKING HORDE AND THROWS HIMSELF INTO THEM.



NO HESITATION. HIS LIFE IS ON THE LINE AND HE DOESN'T GIVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT. ALL DOUBTS ARE SWEEPED AWAY



AND WHEN, AS INEVITABLY THEY MUST, THE SHEER NUMBERS OF HIS ATTACKERS DRAG HIM DOWN, HE UTTERS NOT A WORD AND, FOR AS LONG AS HE CAN, HE SEEKS TO GIVE AS GOOD AS HE GETS.



BUT INEVITABLY, HE GOES DOWN.









"THESE SNAKES
WON'T BE GOING
ANYWHERE!"



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEAGUE, I SUGGEST IT'S TIME WE CLEANED HOUSE.

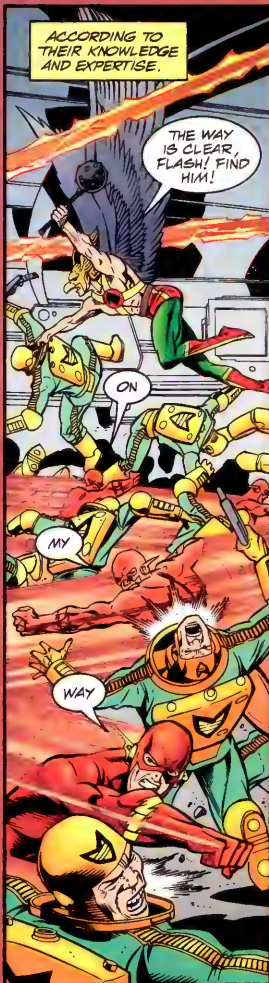
THEY EACH CONTINUE.



EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY OR POWER OR MEANS.

THIS LOOKS LIKE THE BEST OF THEM.

BREAK THESE JUNKIES AND THE REST SHOULD SCATTER!



ACCORDING TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE.

THE WAY IS CLEAR, FLASH! FIND HIM!

ON

MY

WAY

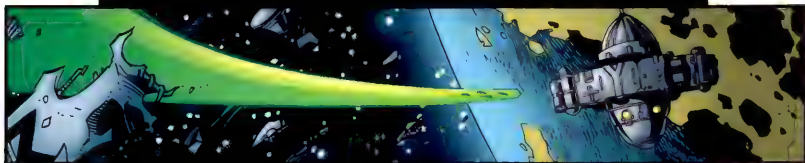


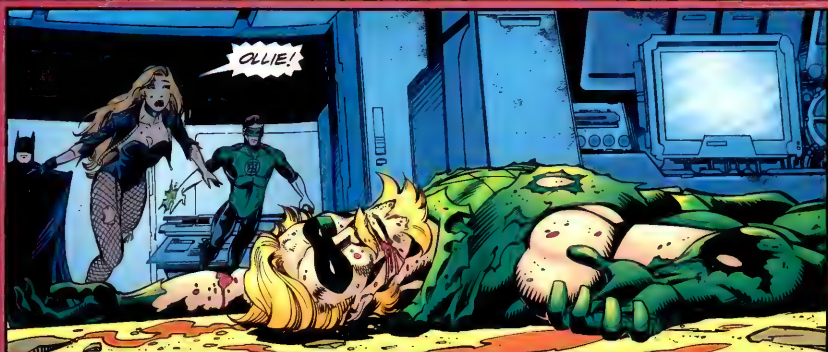
IT IS NOT GLAMOROUS WORK, BUT IT IS NECESSARY.

SNOPAEW, NRUT OTNI TSIM!

FOR IT IS SOMETHING THAT AFFECTS THEM ALL.

THEY ARE PROTECTING THEIR NEW HOME.

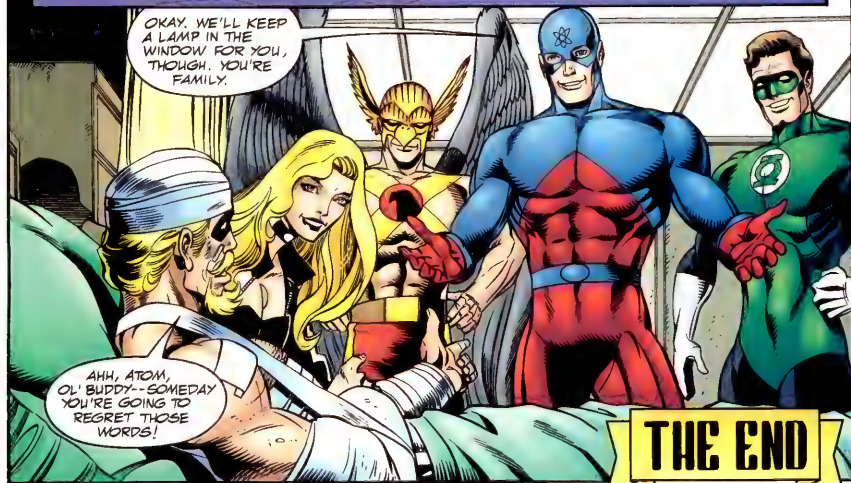
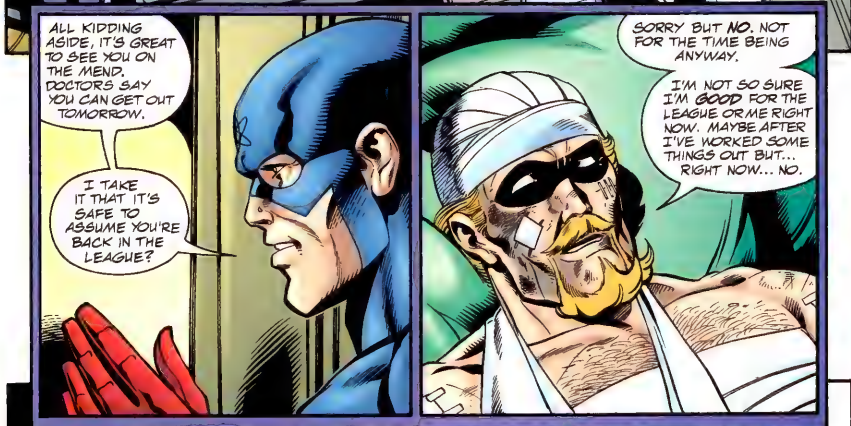


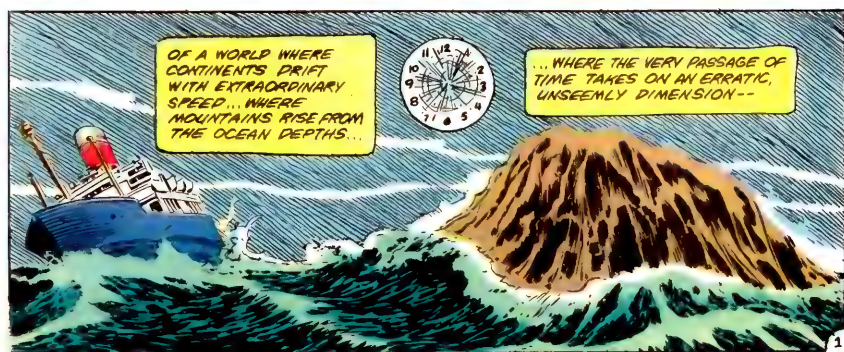
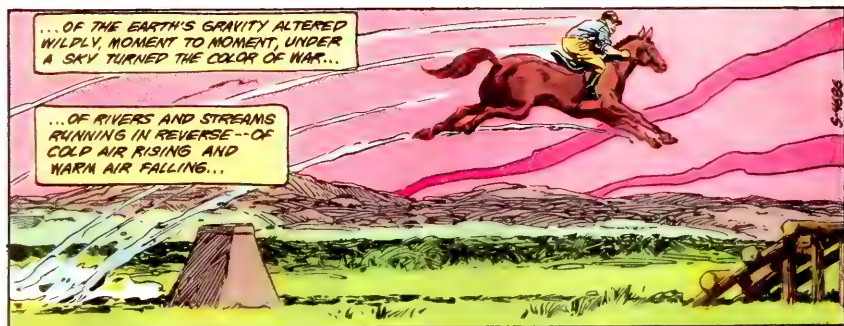


A GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL. PRIVATE, SECURE, AND AWAY FROM PRYING EYES.

IT'S USUALLY QUIETER THAN THIS.

I WANT OUT!!







--AND WHERE THE GREATEST
HERO THIS SMALL, ISOLATED,
BLUE-GREEN WORLD HAS EVER
SEEN MOURNS A LOSS THAT
CANNOT BE WEIGHED...

IS IT HOURS?... IS IT
DAYS?... IS IT WEEKS
OR YEARS SINCE A
PERT, BOUNCY YOUNG
GIRL FILLED WITH
THE ENERGY OF LIFE
AND THE POWER OF
LOST KRYPTON
BROUGHT FAMILY
AND CARING BACK
TO THIS MAN'S
EMPTY SOUL?

AND IS IT MOMENTS?... IS
IT HOURS?... IS IT DAYS OR
WEEKS SINCE HE SAW, HE
TOUCHED, HE FOUGHT BESIDE
HIS COUSIN KARA?
NOW SHE IS DEAD... A LIFE
LOST IN HIS PRESENCE
AND ON HIS BEHALF...

HE WONDER HOW LONG HE WILL
DESPAIR... HOW LOUDLY HE CAN STRIKE
HEAVEN ON THE FACE... WHAT MATTERS
THE CRISIS THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THIS
SORROW--

--AND HE ASKS FOR HOW
LONG YOU CAN AFFORD THE
LUXURY OF MOURNING WHEN
YOU ARE A...

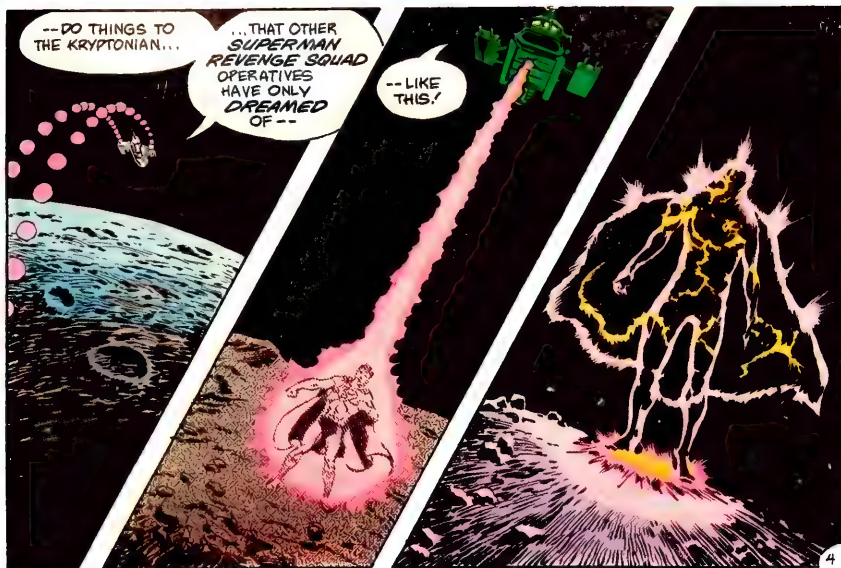
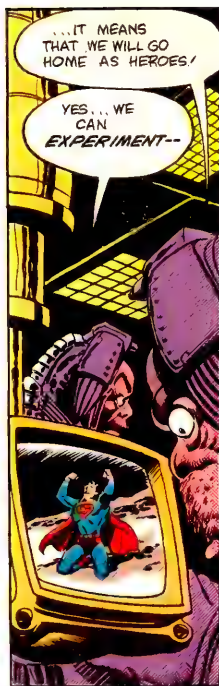
SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

**YEAR OF THE
COMET**

WRITTEN BY ELLIOT S'NAGGIN
DRAWN BY CURT SWAN AND
AL WILLIAMSON

EDITED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ
LETTERED BY ED KING
COLORED BY GENE D'ANGELO





GREAT STARS--!

I THOUGHT I SAW
SOME KIND OF
RAY BEAM FOR A
MOMENT! MUST'VE
BEEN SEEING
THINGS...



...WHICH IS PROBABLY
AN INDICATION TO ME
THAT WHAT I'M DOING
JUST NOW -- FEELING
SORRY FOR MYSELF--

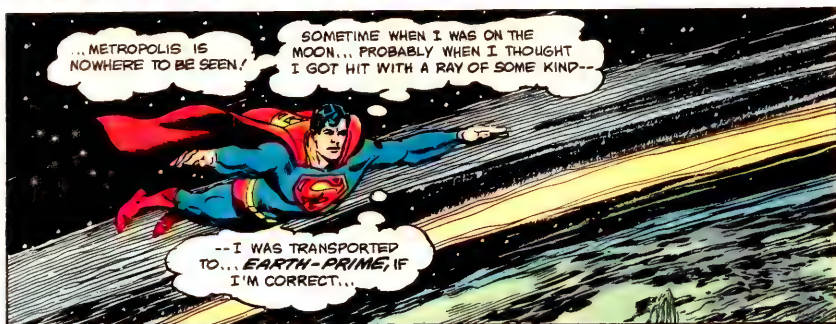
-- IS CONDUCT
UNBECOMING
A **SUPERMAN!**



HOLD IT! THE **EARTH'S**
THERE ALL RIGHT... BUT
EVERYTHING'S OUT OF
PLACE!

NEW YORK IS SPRAWLED
OUT ALL OVER WHERE
GOTHAM IS SUPPOSED
TO BE... BOSTON
SUBURBS COVER
STAR CITY--

--AND
METROPOLIS
IS...



...METROPOLIS IS
NOWHERE TO BE SEEN!

SOMETIME WHEN I WAS ON THE
MOON... PROBABLY WHEN I THOUGHT
I GOT HIT WITH A RAY OF SOME KIND--

-- I WAS TRANSPORTED
TO... **EARTH-PRIME**; IF
I'M CORRECT...



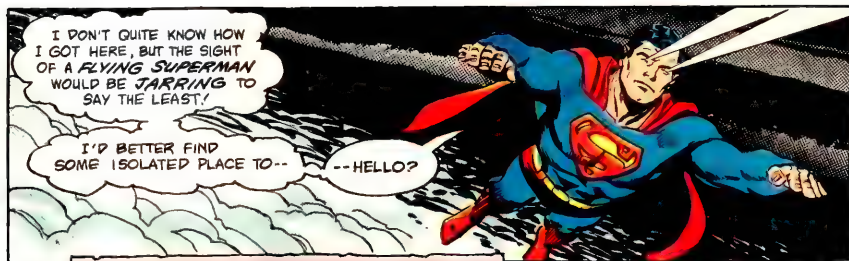
...WHERE THE LAST
GENUINE SUPER-HERO
WAS **BOBBY KENNEDY**
AND I'M A FICTIONAL
CHARACTER!

LOOK!--
UP IN THE
SKY...
IT'S--

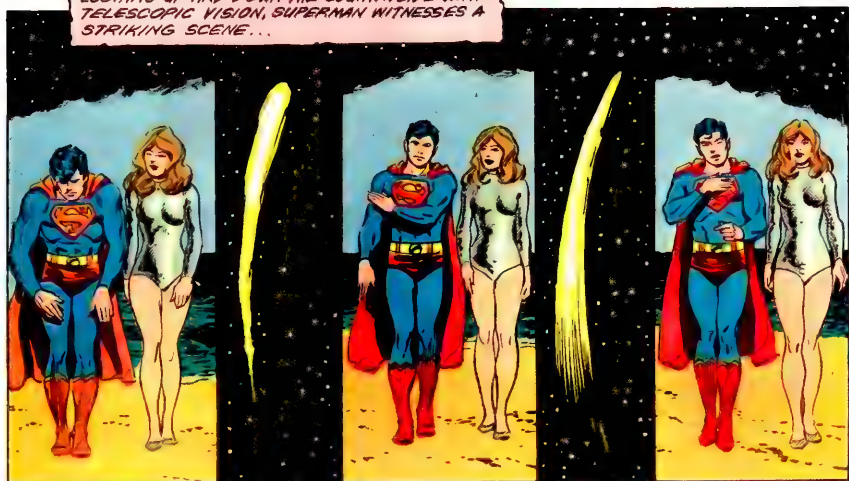


--IT'S...
GONE!

?



LOOKING UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRYSIDE WITH TELESCOPIC VISION, SUPERMAN WITNESSES A STRIKING SCENE...



THAT THIS HAS
NEVER HAPPENED
HERE BEFORE--*



* But it **DOES**
happen in
"THE ORIGIN
OF SUPERBOY-
PRIME"
in the second
story of this
special expanded
issue. Check it out
either now or
when you're
done here.

-- Julie

EXCUSE ME,
YOUNG MAN...
BUT WHO **ARE**
YOU?

I'M
CLARK--
I'M
SUPERBOY!

AND YOU--
YOU
MUST BE--



-- **SUPERMAN!**
BUT... HOW DID YOU GET
HERE? YOUR BODY'S
CELL STRUCTURE IS
CLEARLY **KRYPTONIAN!**

IT...
IS?!



OH, WOW!



THE TWO COMPARE
NOTES--WHAT SCANT
CONFUSING NOTES
THEY HAVE TO
COMPARE, AND...

THIS IS JUST LIKE IN THE COMICS... **EXACTLY**
LIKE IT! I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED I'M NOT **IMAGINING**
IT ALL!

NEITHER AM I, FRANKLY.
GRIEF BRINGS ON DELUSIONS
IN A LOT OF PEOPLE AND--

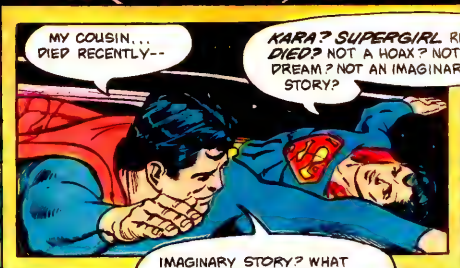
GRIEF?
OVER WHAT?

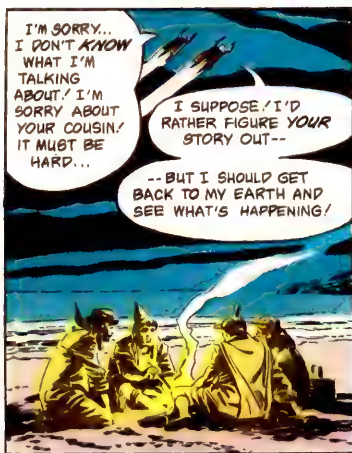


MY COUSIN...
DIED RECENTLY--

**KARA? SUPERGIRL REALLY
DIED?** NOT A HOAX? NOT A
DREAM? NOT AN IMAGINARY
STORY?

IMAGINARY STORY? WHAT
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?





I'M SORRY...
I DON'T *KNOW*
WHAT I'M
TALKING
ABOUT. I'M
SORRY ABOUT
YOUR COUSIN!
IT MUST BE
HARD...

I SUPPOSE. I'D
RATHER FIGURE *YOUR*
STORY OUT--

-- BUT I SHOULD GET
BACK TO MY EARTH AND
SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING!



BUT-- I NEED YOU TO
HELP ME HERE... FIGURE OUT...
WHAT TO DO NEXT.

I... I'M NOT...
SURE--

AH... THE
WANDERING
LAURIE LEMMON!
WHERE'S
CLARKIE?

YOU'LL FIGURE IT
ALL OUT, CLARK...



... JUST REMEMBER
YOU'RE HERE FOR
A *REASON!*

THEY *NEED* YOU.

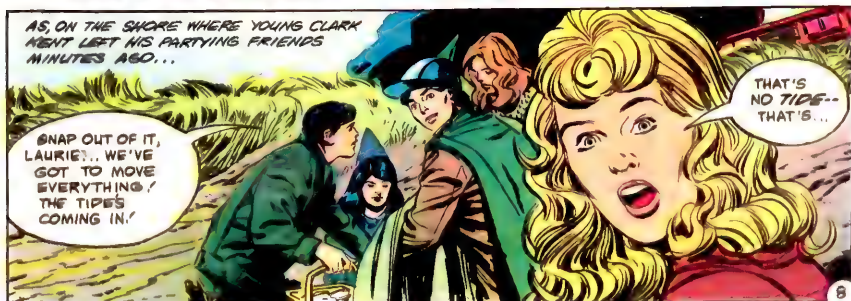
WE'LL TALK ABOUT
THIS AGAIN-- BUT
RIGHT NOW...



... I'M OFF!

WAIT!
WHAT ABOUT--?

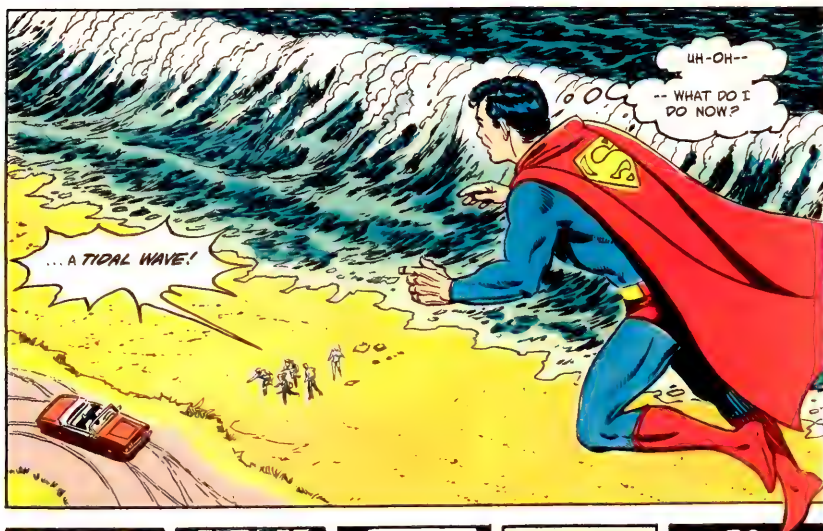
-- UMM... THE
GUY SURE
MOVES ALONG!



AS, ON THE SHORE WHERE YOUNG CLARK
MENT LEFT HIS PARTYING FRIENDS
MINUTES AGO...

SNAP OUT OF IT,
LAURIE... WE'VE
GOT TO MOVE
EVERYTHING!
THE TIDE'S
COMING IN.

THAT'S NO TIDE--
THAT'S...



UH-OH--

-- WHAT DO I
DO NOW?

...A TIDAL WAVE!



THAT'S A LOT
OF WATER! IF
I'M KRYPTONIAN,
I MUST HAVE
HEAT VISION
ENOUGH TO
EVAPORATE IT
BEFORE THE
SHORE...



**FORGET
THAT
STUFF,
LAURIE!
RUN
FOR
YOUR
LIFE!**

BUT...
CLARK...?



... BUT HOW ON
EARTH DO YOU
TURN ON HEAT
VISION ASSUMING
YOU'VE **GOT** IT?



CLARK'LL
HAVE TO BE
A **BIG BOY**
AND FEND
FOR
HIMSELF!

C'MON!



YEAH--

-- THERE IT
GOES!



I'M NOT MAKING IT
STEAM OFF FAST
ENOUGH!

WISH I COULD
FLY STEADILY
ENOUGH--



-- TO SPIRAL
THIS UP INTO
A SPOUT THE
WAY I'VE SEEN
IN THE
COMICS...

...BUT I'M AFRAID
I'D SPLATTER IT
ALL OVER THE--



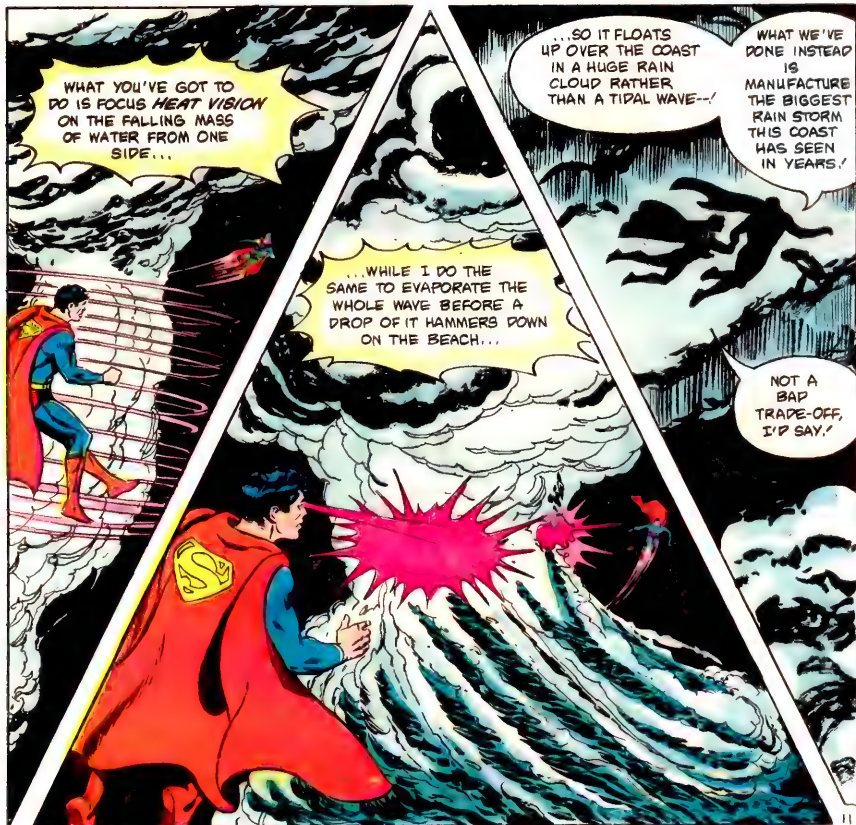
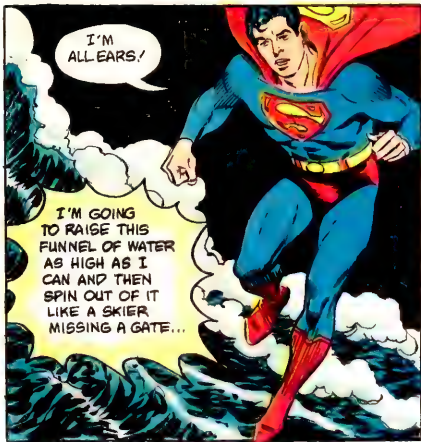
WELL!
HOW IN THIS
GREEN GLORIOUS
WORLD DO YOU
LIKE THAT?



JUSTICE
LIVES AFTER
ALL!

WELL,
DON'T JUST
HANG OUT
THERE LIKE
A LUMP--!

WHO
TH--??



AS, ON THE SHORE...

WHERE'S THE WAVE?
WHERE'D THIS QUICK
FOG COME FROM?

WHERE'S THE CAR?
ANYBODY HAVE A FLASHLIGHT?

I LEFT IT IN
THE CAR.

GREAT!



AND TUMBLING JOYFULLY
THROUGH THE SKY LIKE
A BIRD WHO HAS JUST
DISCOVERED FLIGHT...

THIS IS
BETTER THAN
SKIING! THIS
IS LIKE...
LIKE...

...LIKE FLYING?

THAT'S IT!
HEY, I
COULDN'T
FLY INTO
SPACE,
COULD
I?



I'D BE
SURPRISED
IF YOU
COULDN'T!

SUPERMAN...



...WAIT FOR
MEEEEEE--!

WHOA! YOU'RE
FAST, BUT
ANYWAY--LIKE
A YOUNG COLT!

RACE YOU TO
HALLEY'S
COMET--?

NOW, YOU KNOW
I WOULDN'T
RACE YOU,
CLARK--



--UNLESS
I GOT A
HEAD
START!

HEY!
NO FAIR!



HE CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S REAL, THIS BOY HURTLING HEADLONG THROUGH THE TRACKLESS VOID...

...AT THE SIDE OF A MAN HE HAS ALWAYS KNOWN AS A FICTIONAL HERO--THE PRODUCT OF THE MINDS OF TWO MEN WHO WERE YOUNG LONG BEFORE HE WAS BORN--

--BUT THIS IS INDEED REAL!

SOME WEAR THE BURDEN OF HEROISM, THE STUFF OF LEGEND, AS EASILY AS THEY WEAR THEIR HAIR OR THEIR NAMES.

THIS MAN, RACING AND TUMBLING AMONG THE HEAVENS, AT HOME AMONG THE STARS, IS SUCH A MAN--

--SUCH A MAN AS CAN MAKE ANY BOY LONG TO LIVE LIFE AS A SUPERMAN!

BUT THEN, DRIBBLING FROM THE EXCITEMENT IN HIS MIND LIKE A TOE OUT A HOLE IN A SOCK, IS A CONCERN...

...WHICH HE "SKY-WRITES" IN SOUNDLESS SPACE WITH A SUPER-SPEED FLARE BUILT FROM A CHUNK OF HALLEY'S COMET--

Why did you come back?

OF COURSE, THE MAN OF STEEL IS NOT ONE TO REPEAT A TRICK WITHOUT SOME VARIATION...

COULD NOT BREAK DIMENSION BARRIER TO GET HOME?

Worried?

A BIT

THEY SHRUG... THEY WONDER... THEY LOOK ONE MORE TIME AT THE COMET DUE TO BE VISIBLE TO THE NAKED, EARTHBOUND EYE IN A FEW MONTHS...

...AND THEY LEAVE--

AS, ON THAT SPINNING SPHERE THAT IS HOME TO THE EARTHBOUND...

NAOMI,
THIS IS
RIPICULOUS!

IT'S ALSO
WET, JERRY!
COME IN!
COME IN!

IT WASN'T EVEN
SUPPOSED TO **DRIZZLE**
TONIGHT...LET
ALONE **DELUGE!**

ANY SIGN OF
CLARK, MR. KENT?

NOT A
GLIMMER./

I FEEL
SO GUILTY--

--I MEAN...I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I REALLY SAW WHEN CLARK SEEMED
TO...FLOAT OFF.

YOU HAVE
NO REASON
TO FEEL
GUILTY,
LAURIE!
YOU'VE ALWAYS
BEEN EVERY
BIT AS
RESPONSIBLE
AS CLARK!

NOT
ONLY
THAT...

... BUT A
REPORT ON
THE CAR
RADIO SAID
THERE WERE
OTHER
PEOPLE WHO
"SAW" THAT
TIDAL
WAVE THAT
NEVER
HIT.

I'M SO
CONFUSED--!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S
BEEN GOING
ON AROUND
HERE, LAURIE,
BUT NOBODY
CAN BLAME YOU
FOR BEING
CONFUSED!

MAY I...CALL MY PARENTS, MRS. KENT?
I JUST WANT THEM TO KNOW I GOT
HERE ALL RIGHT!

OF COURSE, LAURIE --AND
WHEN YOU'RE DONE... I THINK
IT'LL BE TIME TO CALL THE POLICE!

SEE THAT LIGHT
DOWN THERE, SUPERBOY--?

YES!
WHAT IS IT?

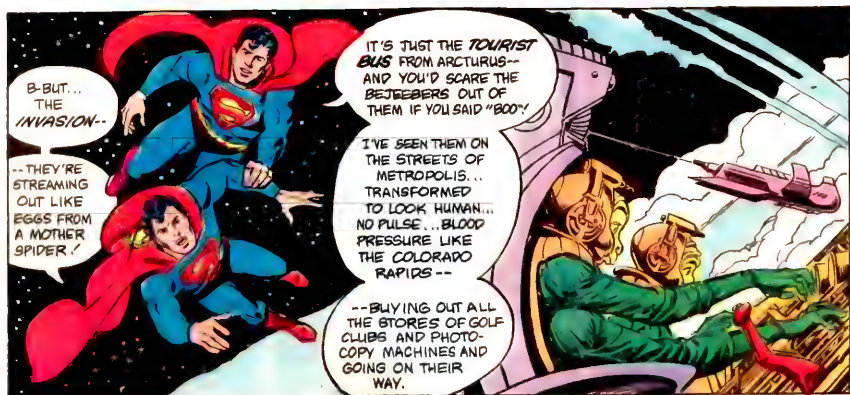
SOMETHING YOU'D
NEVER SEE WITHOUT
YOUR **SUPER-VISION--**



--AN ALIEN
MOTHER SHIP!

INVADERS!
LET'S GET
THEM!

THERE YOU
GO AGAIN,
SUPERBOY...



B-BUT...
THE
INVASION--

--THEY'RE
STREAMING
OUT LIKE
EGGS FROM
A MOTHER
SPIDER!

IT'S JUST THE *TOURIST*
BUS FROM ARCTURUS--
AND YOU'D SCARE THE
BEETLEBEARS OUT OF
THEM IF YOU SAID "BOO!"

I'VE SEEN THEM ON
THE STREETS OF
METROPOLIS...
TRANSFORMED
TO LOOK HUMAN...
NO PULSE... BLOOD
PRESSURE LIKE
THE COLORADO
RAPIDS --

--BUYING OUT ALL
THE STORES OF GOLF
CLUBS AND PHOTO-
COPY MACHINES AND
GOING ON THEIR
WAY.



LET'S GO BREAK
THIS ALL TO YOUR
PARENTS BEFORE--
EHH?

TURNABOUT

IS

FAIR

PLAY!



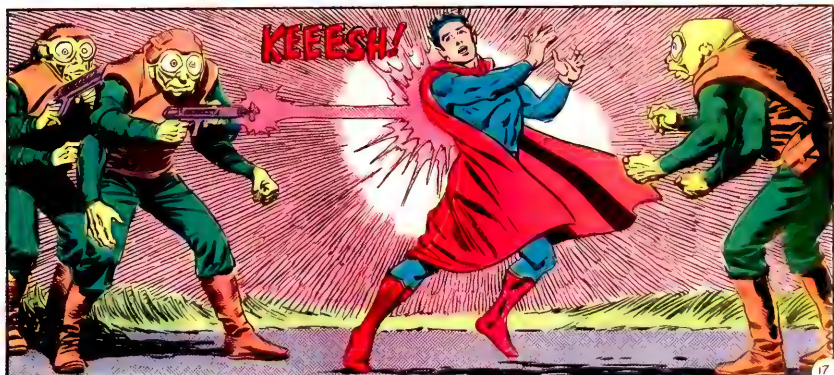
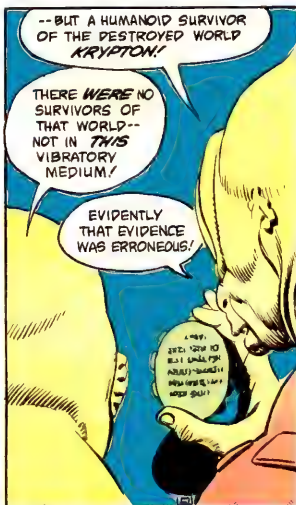
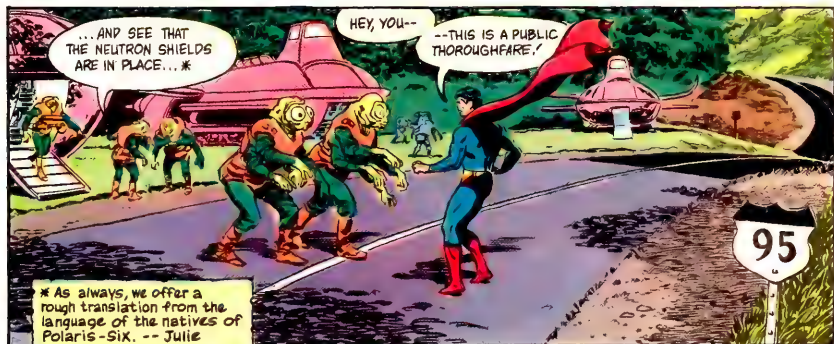
THE KID
LEARNS
FAST!

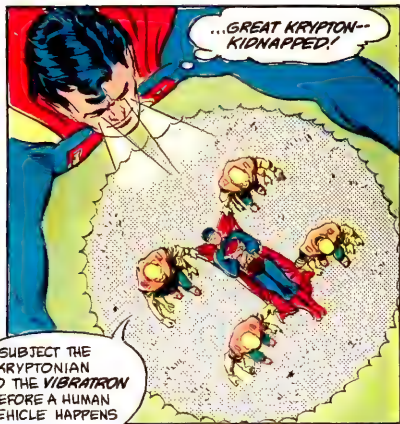


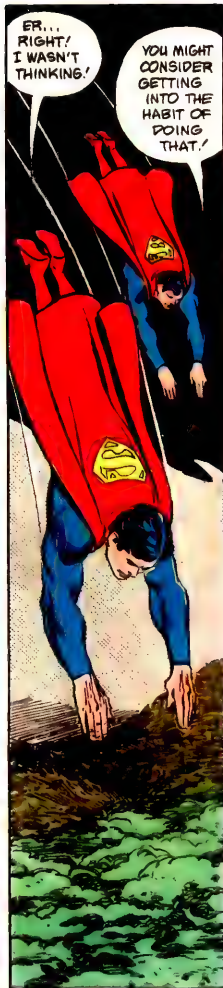
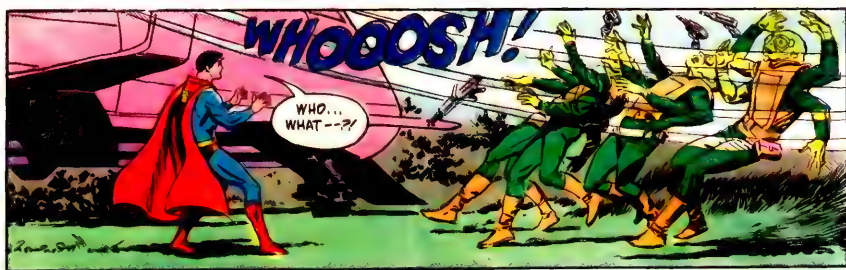
FAR BELOW, ON A ROAD
THROUGH THE WHITE MOUNTAINS...

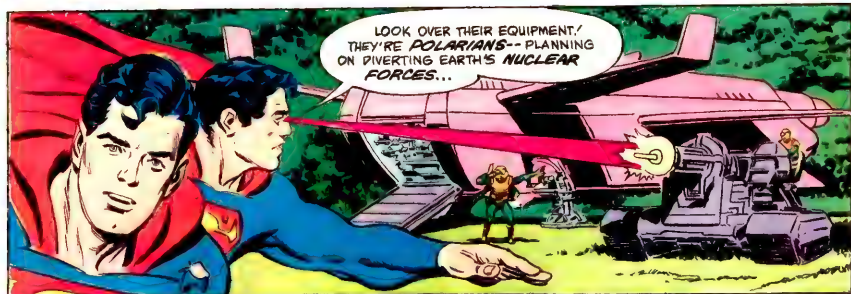
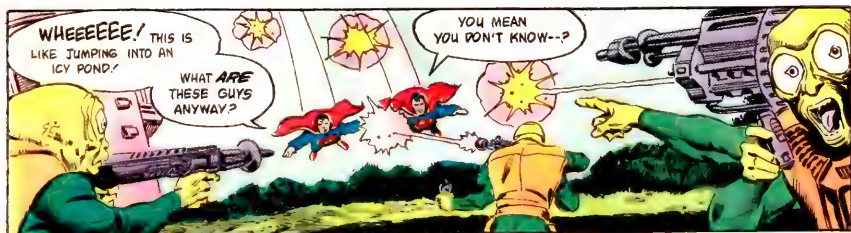
HE'S RIGHT...
MORE ALIENS
ALL OVER THE PLACE!

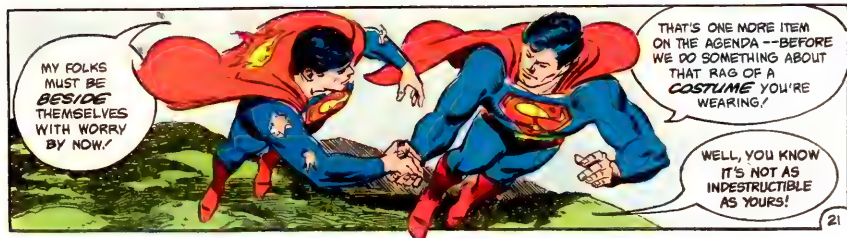
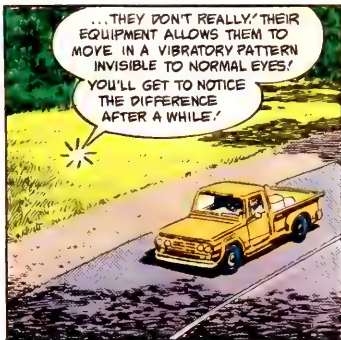
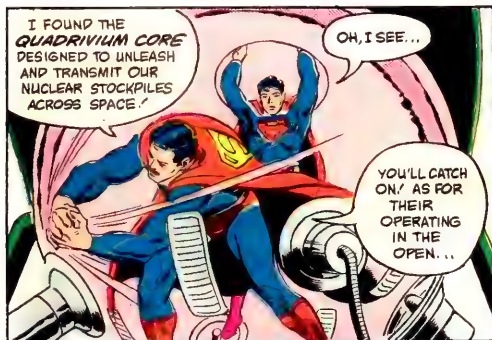
MAYBE I SHOULD GO
INTO THE GOLF CLUB
BUSINESS!



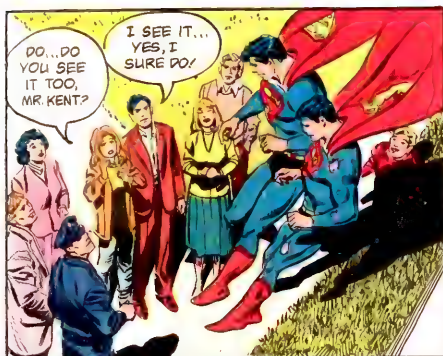
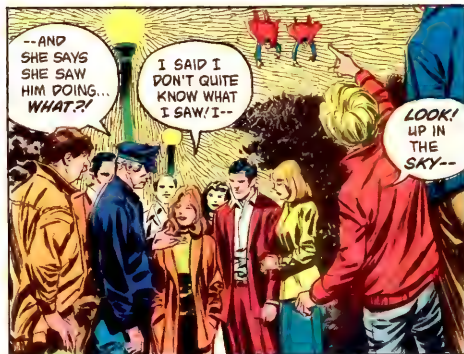


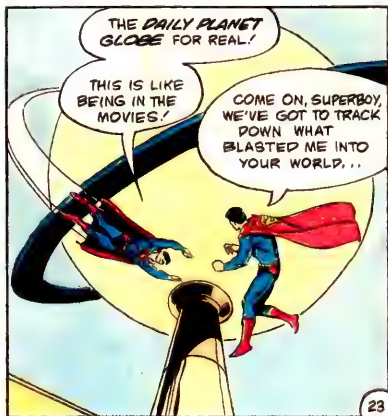
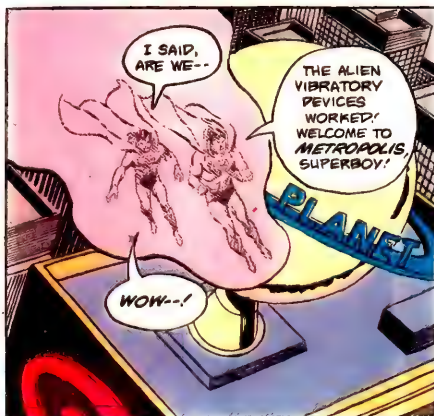
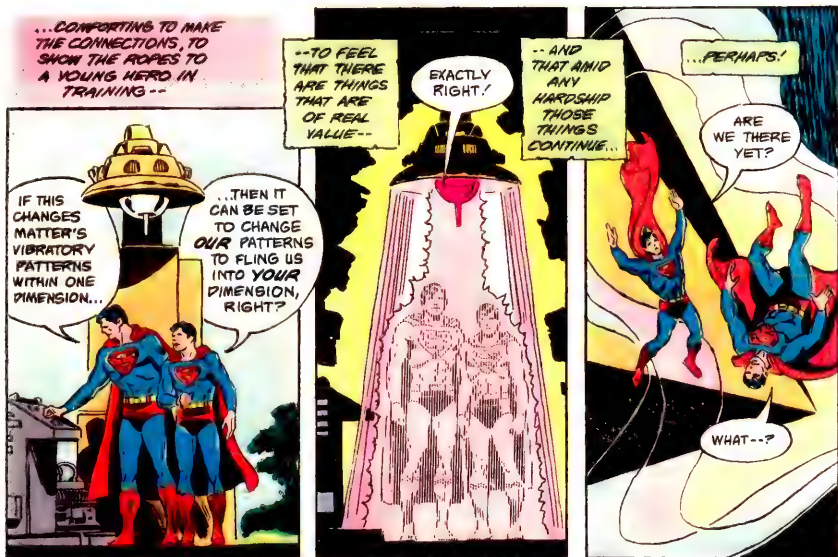
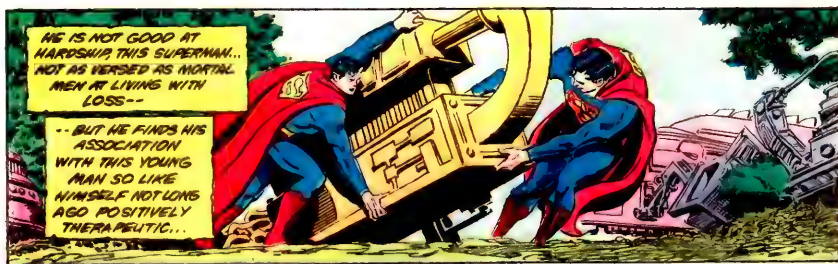


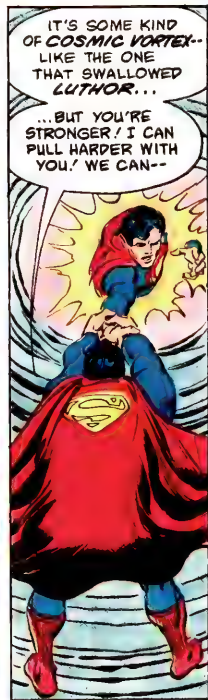




ON A RESIDENTIAL STREET OF A LITTLE SEACOAST TOWN, WHAT LOOKS TO BE A PAINFUL DRAMA IS TAKING FORM...

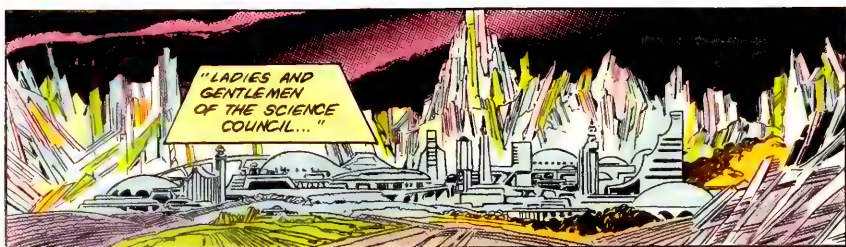
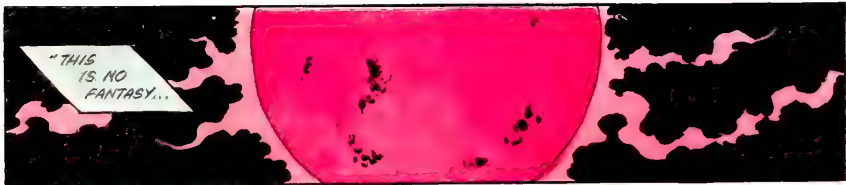






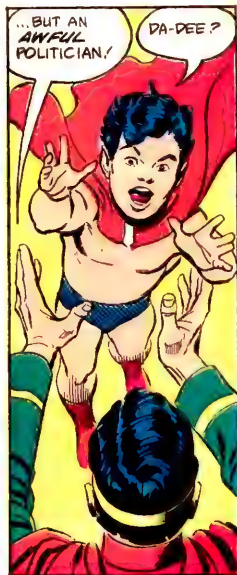
WILL SUPERMAN SUFFER ANOTHER SUDDEN LOSS SO CLOSELY AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF SUPERGIRL?...AND WILL THESE MEMBERS OF THE SUPERMAN REVENGE SQUAD, UNCHASTENED BY THE DEATH PENALTY FOR FAILURE, SUCCEED IN DESTROYING HIM?...IN THESE CRITICAL TIMES IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN--AND WILL AS THE STORY CONTINUES IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF...

SUPERMAN





VOTES ARE TAKEN,
MEETINGS HELD,
AND THE BRILLIANT
FIREBRAND OF A
SCIENTIST TRUDGES
HOME...



BUT CIRCUMSTANCE,
MORE THAN POLITICS,
MOVES THE COUNCIL
TO ACT AFTER ALL...

...AND THE SHUDDERS
IN THE GROUND ARE
THE LEAST OF IT...

IN THE NEXT DAYS
THE RED SKY OF
KRYPTON TURNS
ICY BLUE...THE
MAGNETIC FIELD
OF THE WORLD
SEEMS TO SHIFT...

--GRAVITATION
GOES TO WILD
EXTREMES, AT
TIMES FADING
SO THAT NORMAL
PEOPLE SEEM
TO FLY...

...THEN BECOMING SO
OPPRESSIVE THAT
STRONG ANIMALS
FOUNDER IN THEIR
OWN WEIGHT--

DOCILE HOUSE
PETS SUDDENLY
BECOME VICIOUS
FOR SHORT
PERIODS OF TIME...

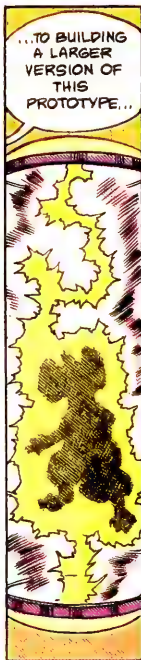
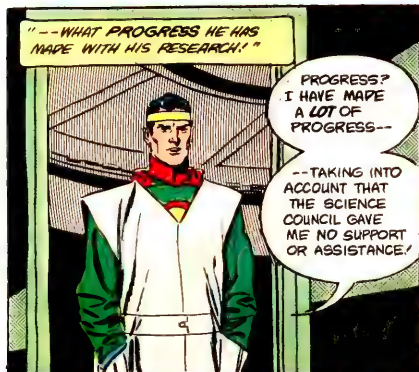
ELECTROMAGNETIC
PULSE CAUSES
VEHICLES AND
MACHINERY TO
BEHAVE IMPOSSIBLY
OUT OF CONTROL...

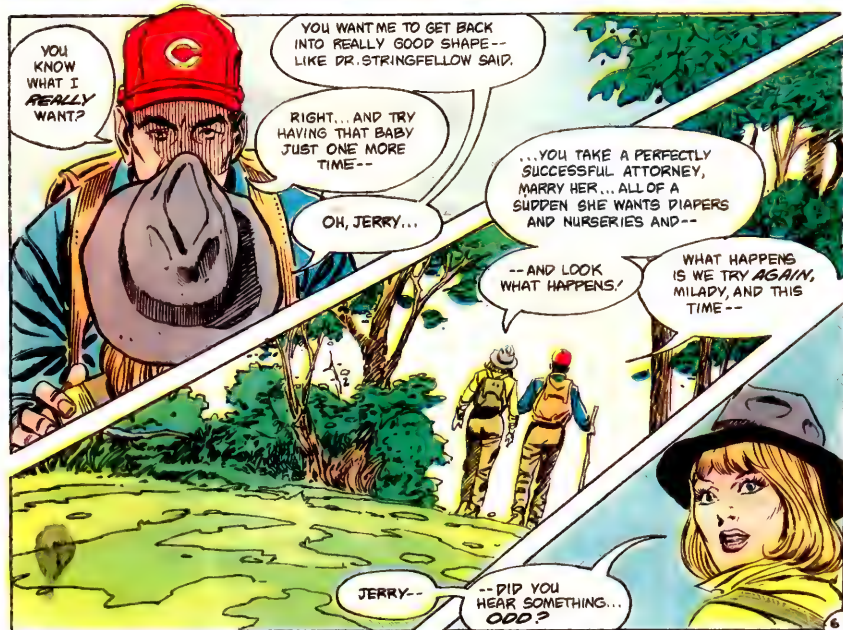
ASTRONOMERS DETECT
SPONTANEOUS VOLCANIC
ACTIVITY ON A HERETOFORE
DEAD MOON...

RIVERS FLOW
BACKWARD AND
WATERFALLS
LEAP UP CLIFFS...

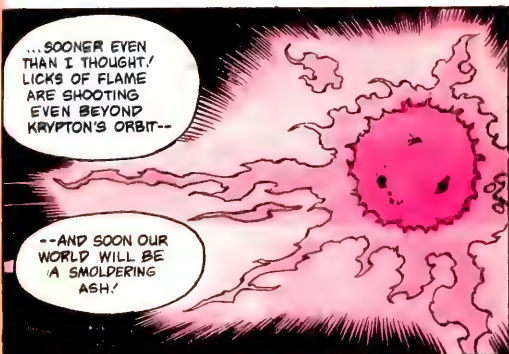
...AND MORE!

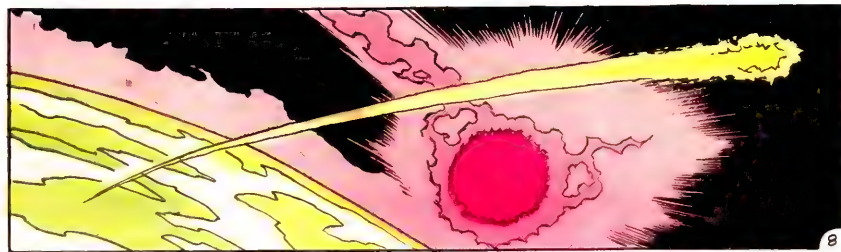






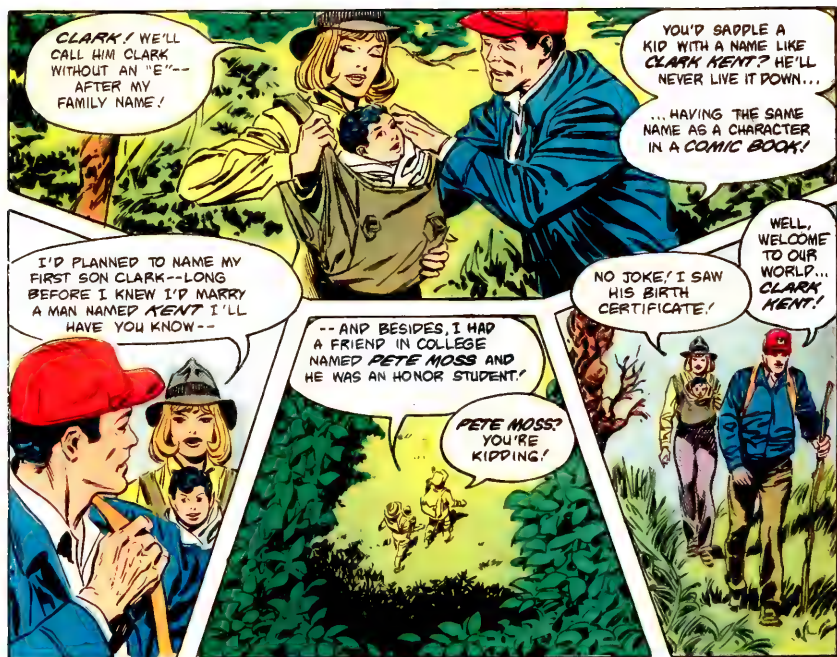
AS, AT THAT MOMENT, SOME LIGHT-YEARS ACROSS THE GALAXY...







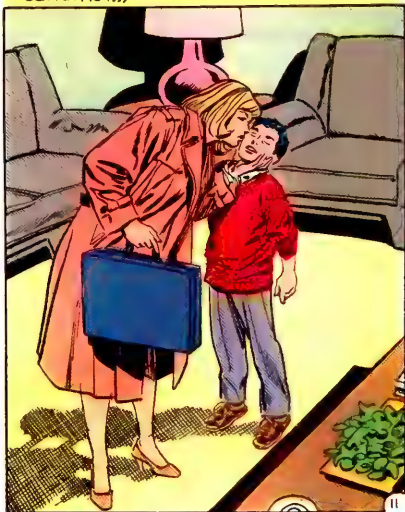




THE BOY GROWS UP IN A FINE HOME
WHERE HIS FATHER OWNS A SUCCESSFUL
COMPUTER BUSINESS...

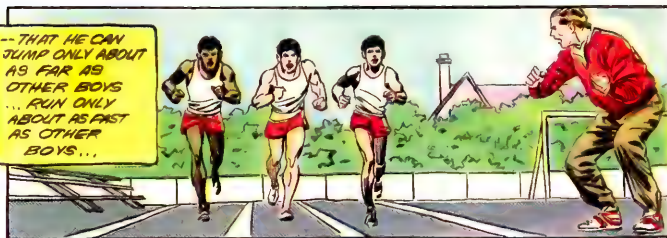


...AND HIS MOTHER RETURNS TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN HER OWN FIRM IN A SMALL TOWN ON THE NEW ENGLAND SEACOAST...



AS THE BOY GROWS OLDER HE FINDS-- SOMEWHAT TO HIS SURPRISE-- ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW WHY--

--THAT HE CAN JUMP ONLY ABOUT AS FAR AS OTHER BOYS ... RUN ONLY ABOUT AS FAST AS OTHER BOYS...



...AND THAT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING ON THE ORDER OF STICKS AND STONES OR HARDER CAN PENETRATE HIS SKIN--

SAFE--!

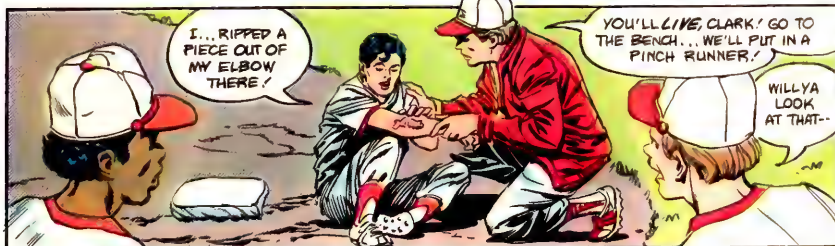
YOWWCH!



I...RIPPED A PIECE OUT OF MY ELBOW THERE!

YOU'LL LIVE, CLARK! GO TO THE BENCH... WE'LL PUT IN A PINCH RUNNER!

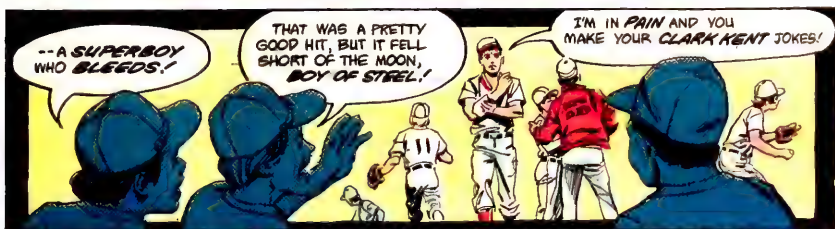
WILL YA LOOK AT THAT--



--A SUPERBOY WHO BLEEDS!

THAT WAS A PRETTY GOOD HIT, BUT IT FELL SHORT OF THE MOON, BOY OF STEEL!

I'M IN PAIN AND YOU MAKE YOUR CLARK KENT JOKES!



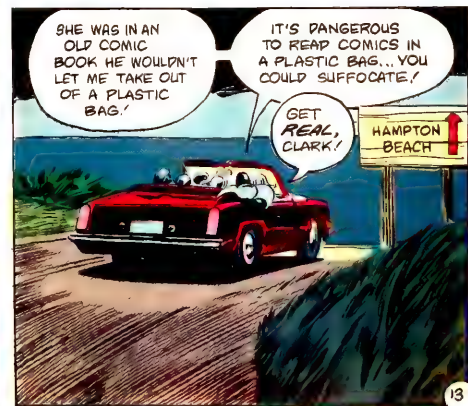
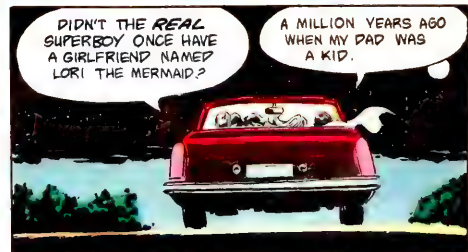
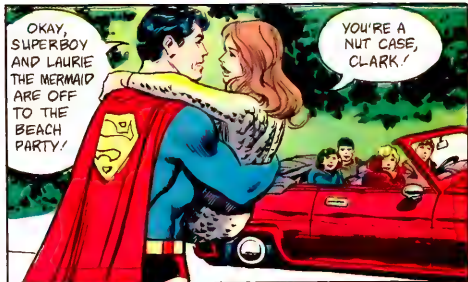
BUT, LIKE ANYONE, AN AWKWARD WALK, OR POOR AFFLUENCE FOR SPELLING, YOU CAN LEARN TO LIVE WITH A WELL-KNOWN NAME...

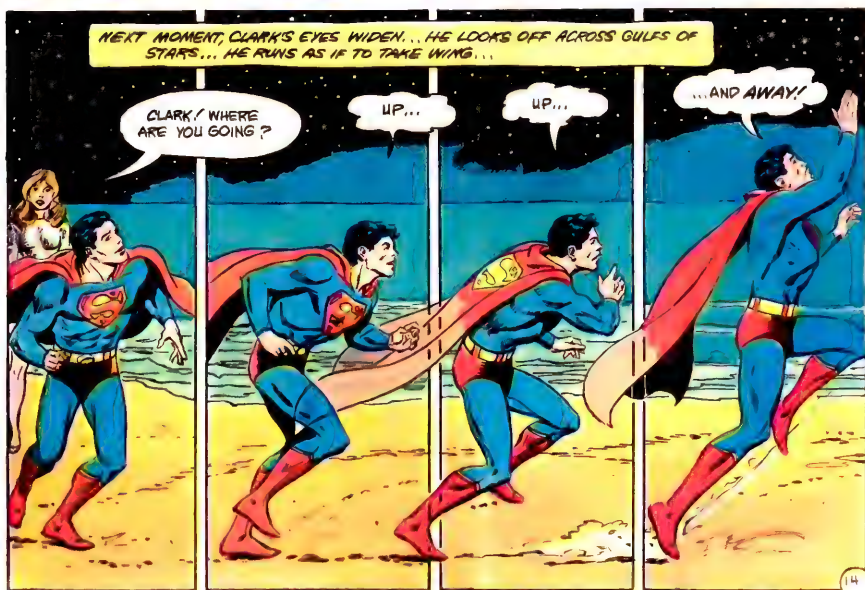
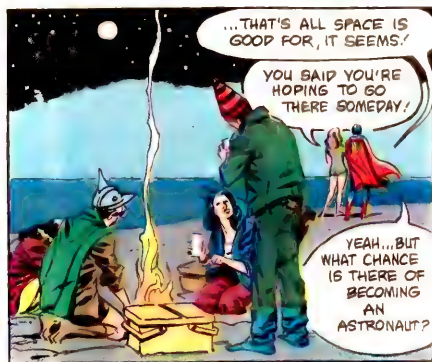
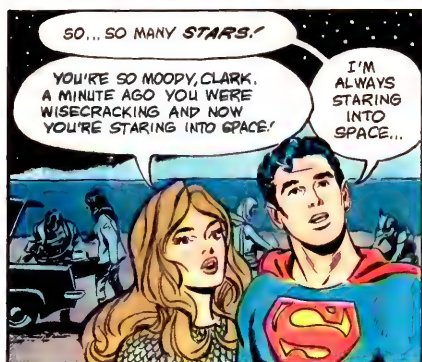
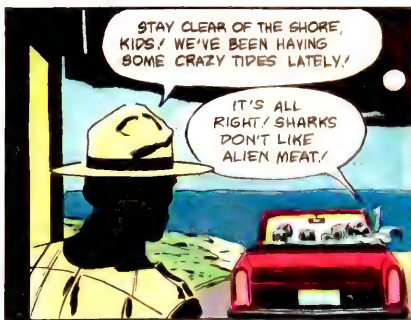
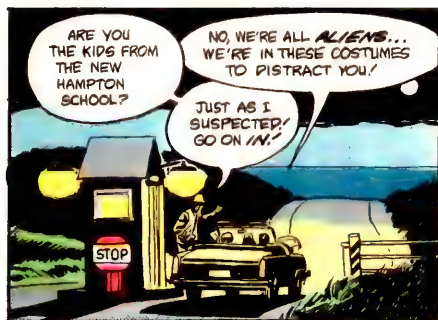
IS CLARK READY YET, MRS. KENT? THE KIDS ARE WAITING!

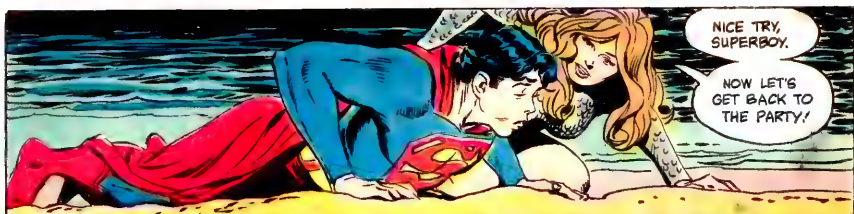
ANY MOMENT, LAURIE! HE'S COMING DOWN THE STAIRS...

MOM, TELL HER TO STAND BACK! HERE I COME--!



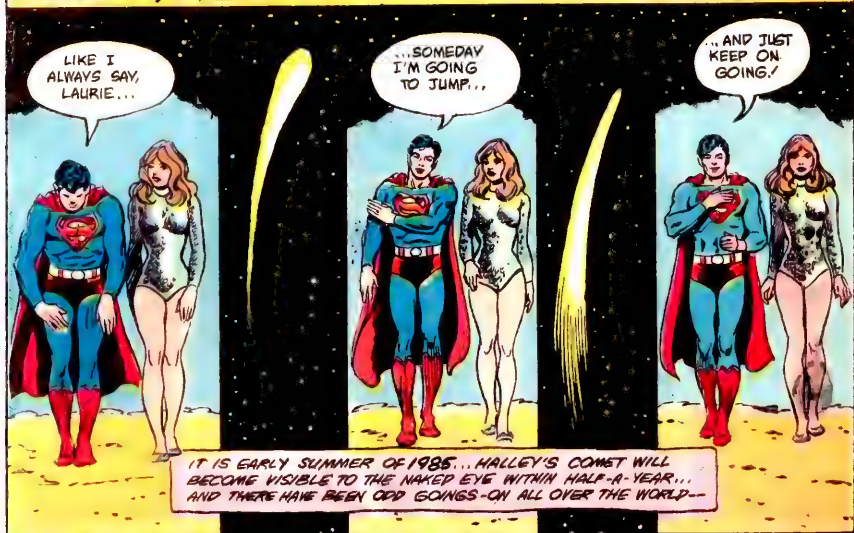






NICE TRY,
SUPERBOY.

NOW LET'S
GET BACK TO
THE PARTY!



LIKE I
ALWAYS SAY,
LAURIE...

...SOMEDAY
I'M GOING
TO JUMP...

...AND JUST
KEEP ON
GOING!

IT IS EARLY SUMMER OF 1985... HALLEY'S COMET WILL
BECOME VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE WITHIN HALF-A-YEAR...
AND THERE HAVE BEEN ODD GOINGS-ON ALL OVER THE WORLD--



A
SLIGHT
SHIFT IN
THE MOON'S
ORBIT HAS
MADE PART
OF ITS
FAR SIDE
VISIBLE...



...COMPASSES AND
NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT
GO WILD WITH EARTH'S
SHIFTING MAGNETIC FIELD...

AND ON THIS BEACH ON THE NEW ENGLAND SEACOAST...



LAURIE!
LOOK-- UP IN
THE SKY!

LOOK AT
WHAT... THE
STARS?

NO...
HALLEY'S COMET!
CAN'T YOU
SEE IT?



CLARK,
IT WON'T
BE
VISIBLE
TILL
DECEMBER!

I SEE
IT, I TELL
YOU! AND
IT LOOKS
CLOSE
ENOUGH...



...TO
TOUCH!

CLARK--?!



CLARK--
AM I
CRAZY
OR ARE
YOU...

FLYING!
GREAT
SCOTT--
I'M
FLYING!



THIS
FEELS LIKE
SKIING...

...NO,
BETTER
THAN
SKIING...

...LIKE--

EXCUSE
ME,
YOUNG
MAN...



...BUT
WHO
ARE YOU?

I'M
CLARK--
I'M
SUPERBOY!

AND YOU--
YOU MUST
BE--

FOR THE STARTLING ANSWER, TURN TO PAGE SEVEN
OF THE FIRST STORY IN THIS ISSUE!

IN THE BEGINNING THERE WERE MANY.
A MULTIVERSAL INFINITY...

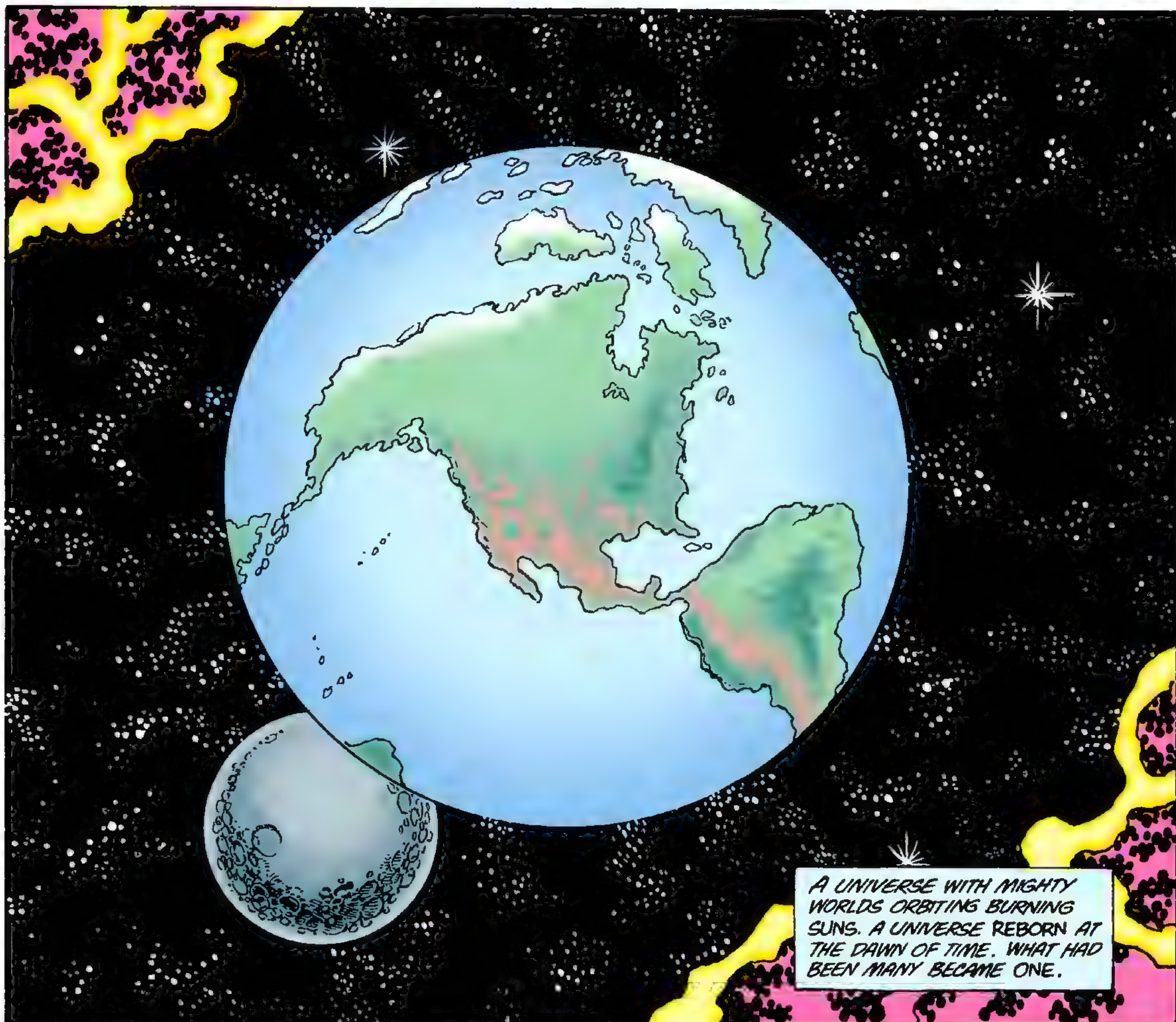
... SO COLD AND
DARK FOR SO VERY
LONG...

... THAT EVEN THE
BURNING LIGHT WAS
IMPERCEPTIBLE.

BUT THEN THE
LIGHT GREW,
AND THE
MULTIVERSE
SHUDDERED...

... AND THE
DARKNESS
SCREAMED
AS MUCH IN
PAIN AS IN
RELIEF.

FOR IN THAT INSTANT
A UNIVERSE WAS BORN.



A UNIVERSE WITH MIGHTY
WORLDS ORBITING BURNING
SUNS. A UNIVERSE REBORN AT
THE DAWN OF TIME. WHAT HAD
BEEN MANY BECAME ONE.

AFTERNOON

IT IS A SUNNY MORNING IN METROPOLIS IN 1985.

COFFEE AND TEA BEGIN TO BREW AS YAWNS REPLACE SNORES...

AND, IN APARTMENT 3-D AT 344 CLINTON STREET...

UNNNNNHHH, WHAT A HORRIBLE DREAM.

IT WAS THE END OF EVERY-THING... MY EARTH, KAL-EL'S, ALL THOSE OTHERS,

BUT IT'S OBVIOUS EVERY-THING'S THE WAY IT'S ALWAYS BEEN. I'M HOME, AND--

WHAT'S WITH THE DECOR? LOIS REDO THE APARTMENT WHILE I WAS... IN FACT, WHERE HAVE I BEEN?

I MUST HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED. I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.

HMM. LOIS PROBABLY WENT TO WORK AND LET ME SLEEP LATE. OBVIOUSLY I NEEDED IT.

WHAT A BIZARRE DREAM. CLARK, YOU'RE GETTING OLD.

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO THINK OF RETIRING. OR AT LEAST OF TAKING SOME TIME OFF.

POWER GIRL CAN PICK UP THE SLACK WHILE I'M GONE.

COULD USE SOME TIME AWAY FROM THE DAILY STAR, TOO...

TOO MUCH PRESSURE. I BECAME A REPORTER TO BE ON MY OWN.

BEING EDITOR OF THE STAR KEEPS ME IN BOARD MEETINGS MAKING BUSINESS DECISIONS FROM EIGHT TO EIGHT.

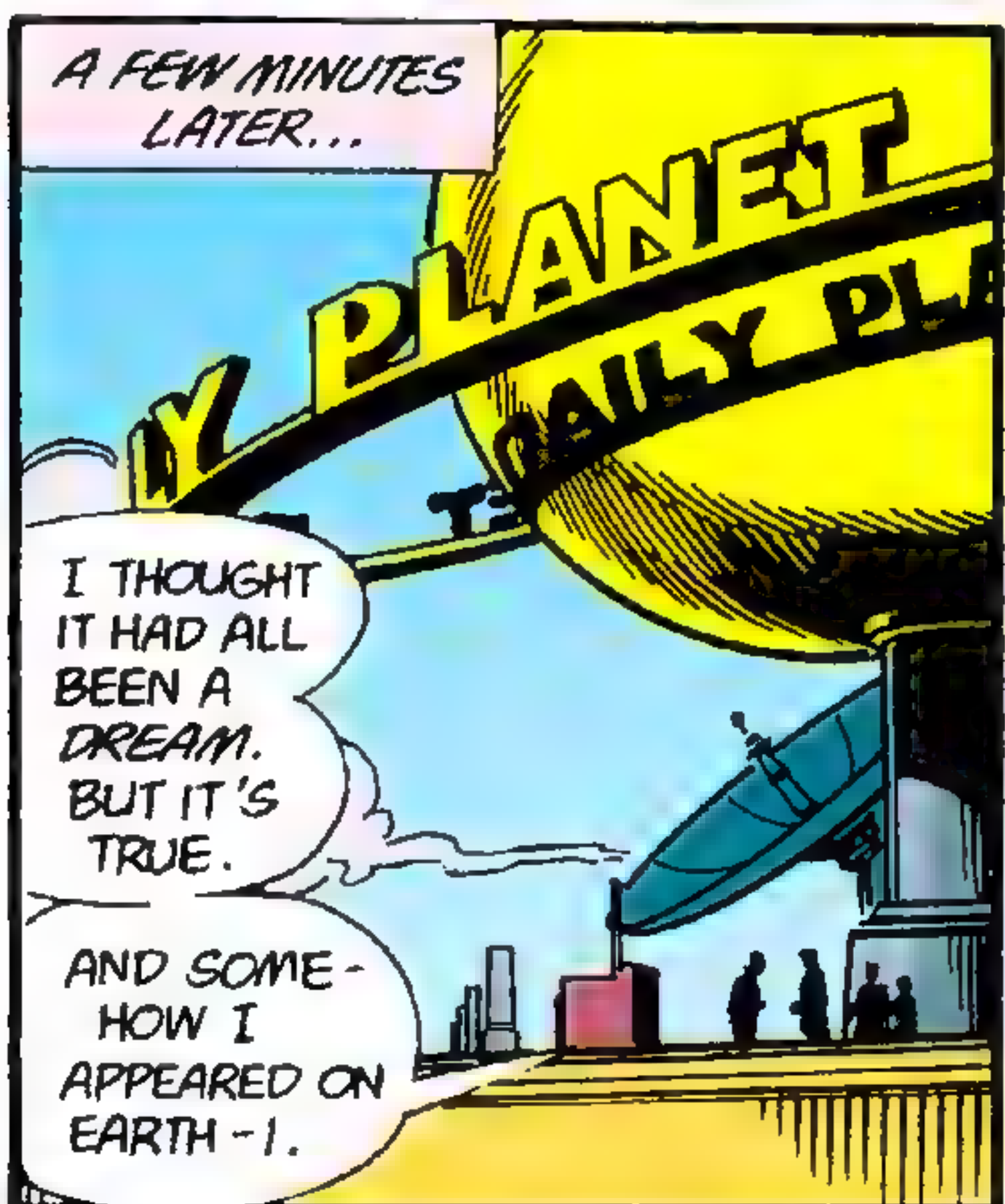
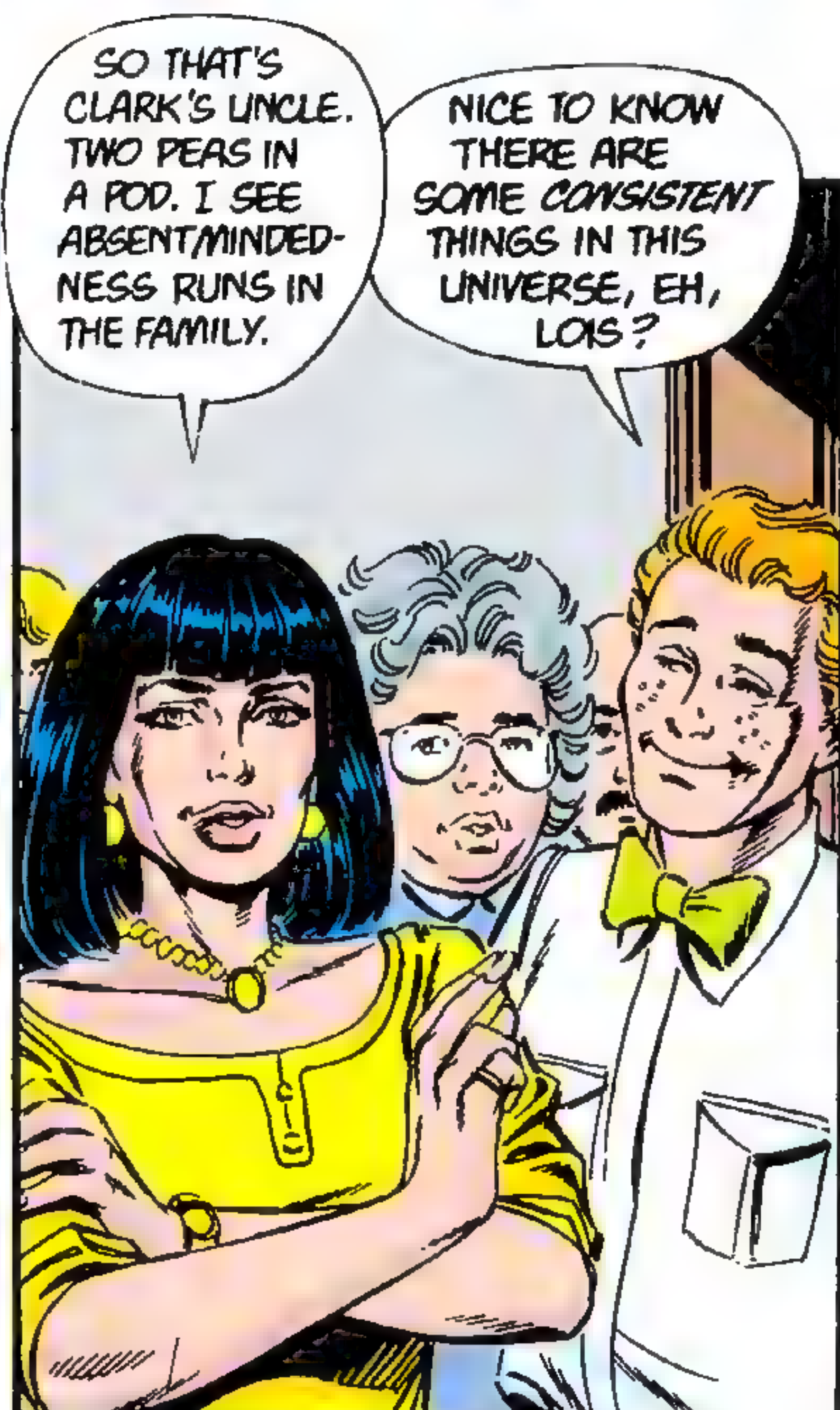
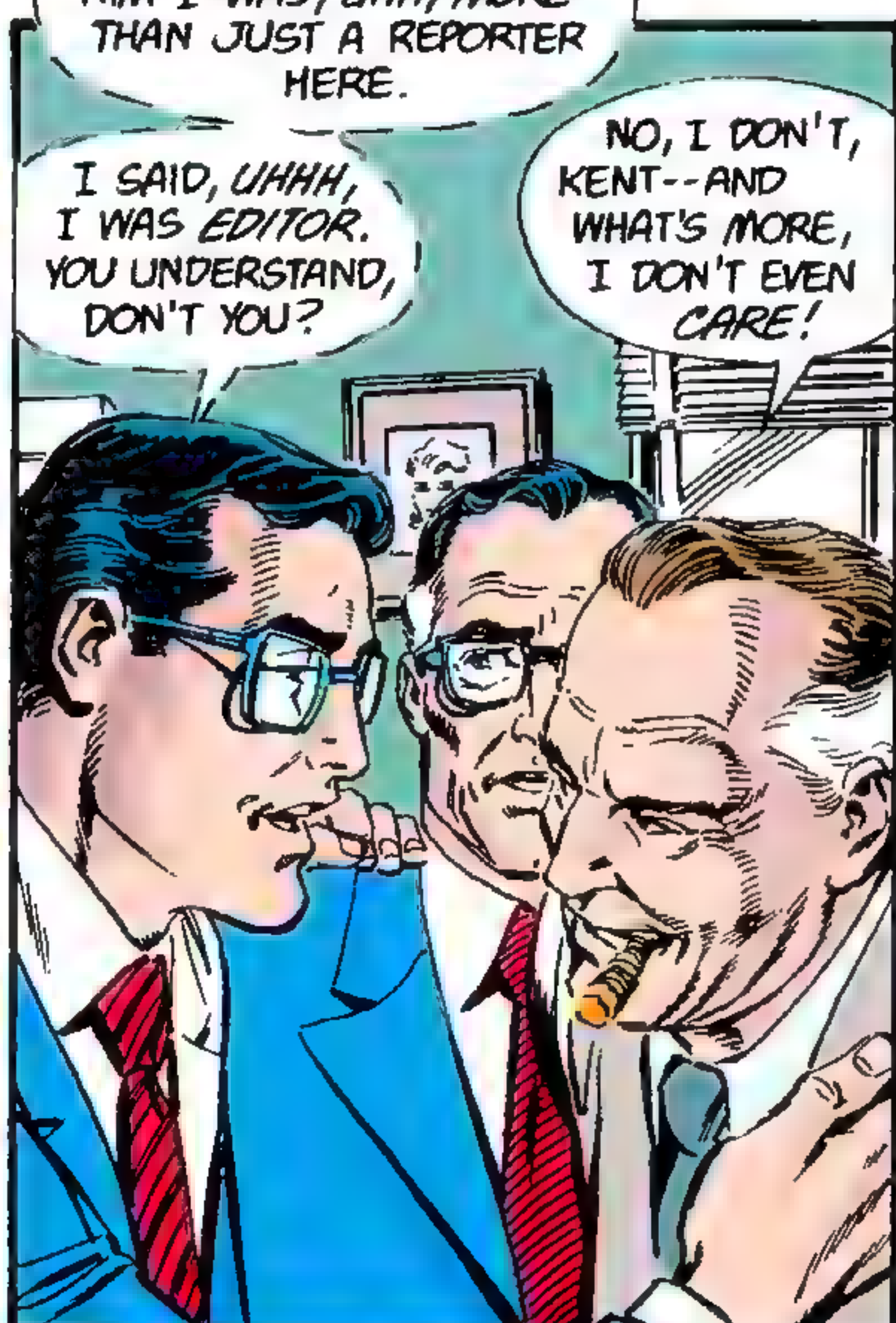
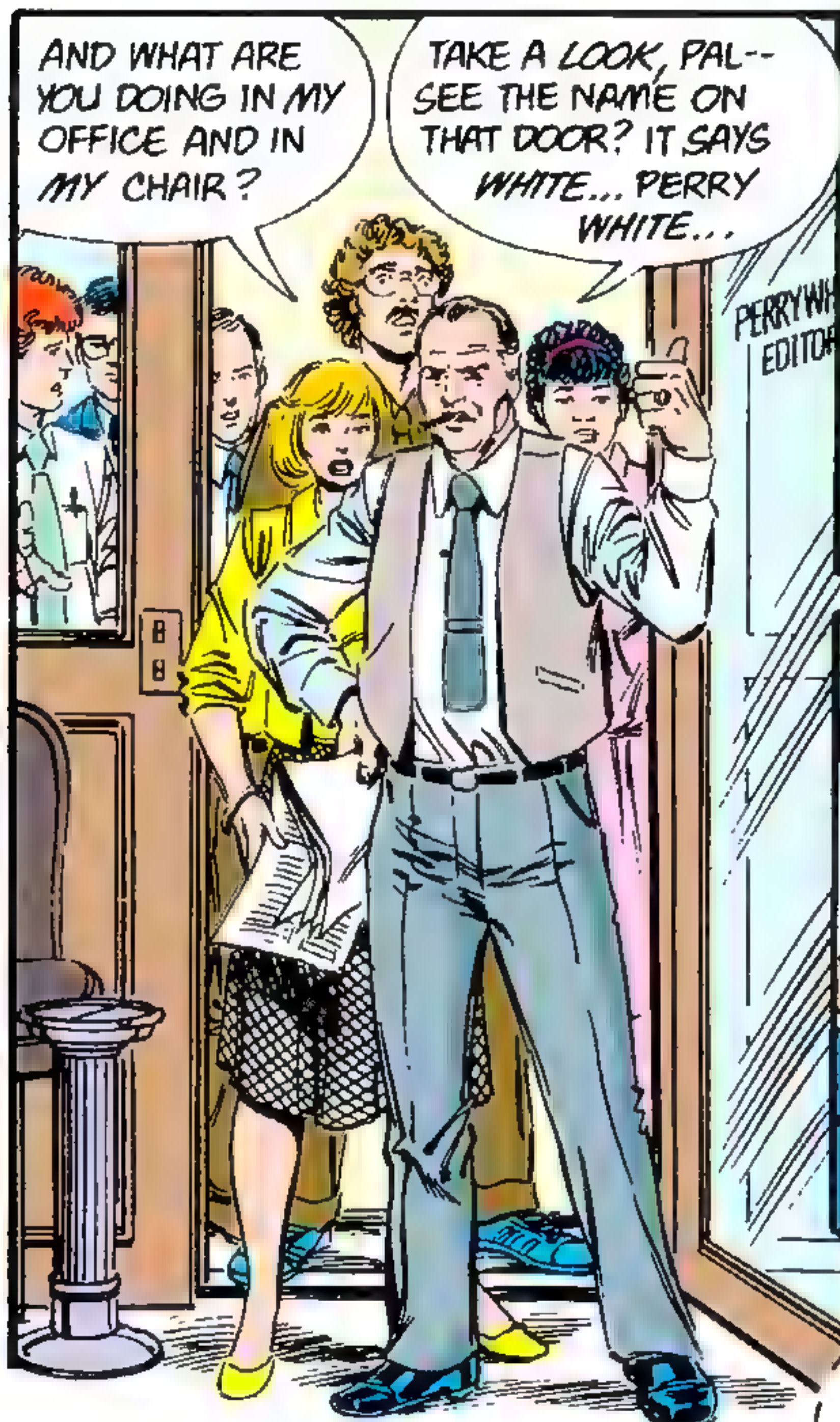
WELL, LIKE THE YOUNG PEOPLE SAY-- I KNEW IT WAS A DANGEROUS JOB WHEN I TOOK IT.

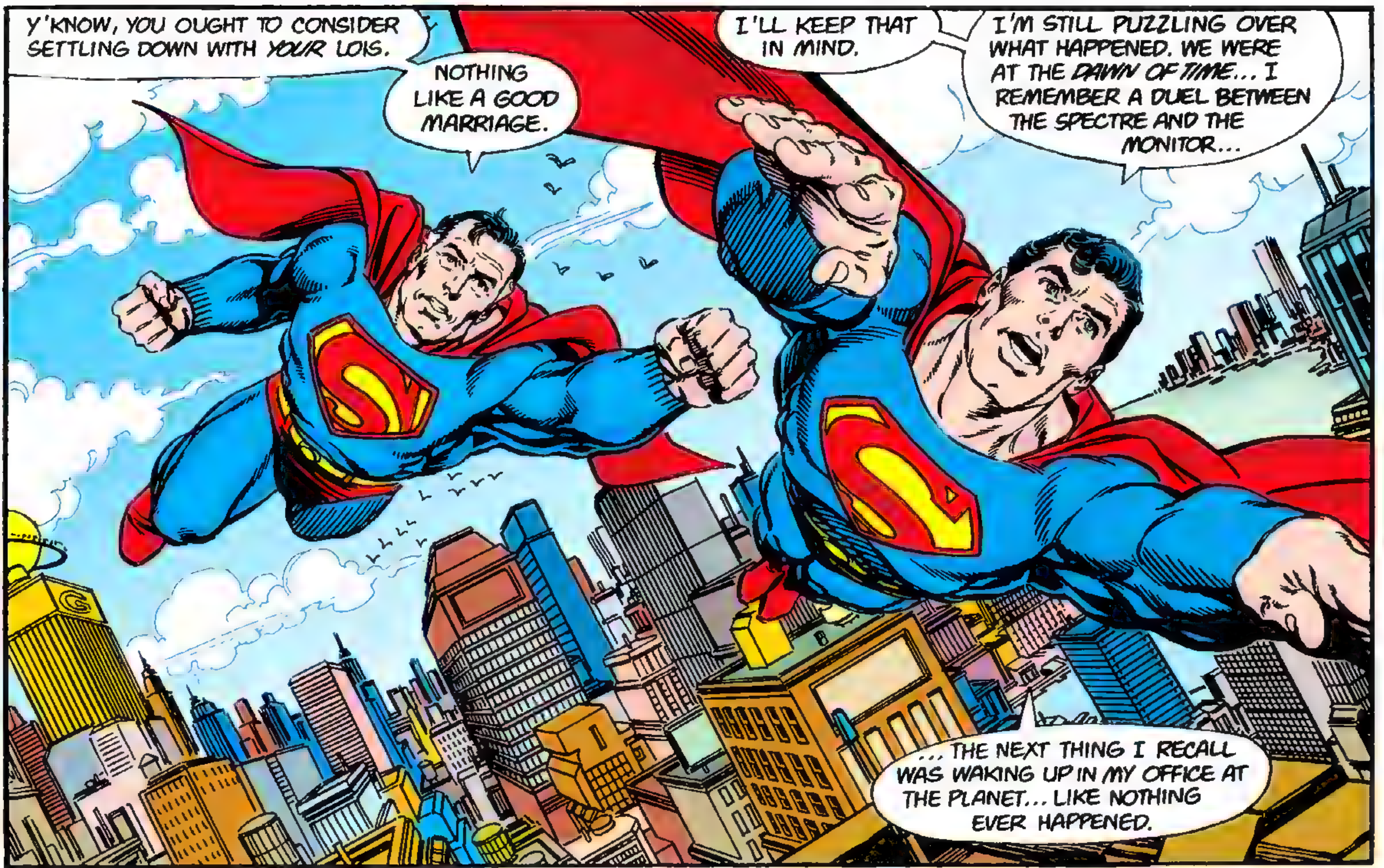
NOTHING NEW, I SEE. TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. INFLATION IS UP ONE POINT. ALL'S NORMAL.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR, CLARK KENT. IT JUST MAY COME TRUE.

NORMAL AND BORING! WHEN ARE THINGS GOING TO GET EXCITING?

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU?





Y'KNOW, YOU OUGHT TO CONSIDER
SETTLING DOWN WITH YOUR LOIS.

NOTHING
LIKE A GOOD
MARRIAGE.

I'LL KEEP THAT
IN MIND.

I'M STILL PUZZLING OVER
WHAT HAPPENED. WE WERE
AT THE DAWN OF TIME... I
REMEMBER A DUEL BETWEEN
THE SPECTRE AND THE
MONITOR...

... THE NEXT THING I RECALL
WAS WAKING UP IN MY OFFICE AT
THE PLANET... LIKE NOTHING
EVER HAPPENED.



YOU SAY NOBODY REMEM-
BERED THE STRANGE
WEATHER THE EARTH'S
SUFFERED?

NO, BUT I FOUND
REFERENCE TO
KARA'S DEATH...
THAT SHE DIED
FIGHTING IN SOME
BATTLE.



THEY KNOW
SUPERGIRL DIED,
BUT NOT HOW?
STRANGE.

AH, THERE'S
WASHINGTON SQUARE.
BUT WHERE'S THE
POLICE CORDON TO
KEEP PEOPLE OUT
OF THE ZONE?



WHAT
ZONE?
I DON'T
SEE
ANYTHING.

"CURIOLUSER AND
CURIOLUSER" AND
LITTLE ALICE.

THERE'S SOME
POLICEMEN. THEY'LL
BE ABLE TO HELP.



SUPERMAN? HEY, THIS IS GREAT. I'M
JERRY THOMAS...WOW. MEETING
SUPERMAN HIMSELF. WOW!

OFFICER, WHAT
HAPPENED TO THE
POLICE CORDON?



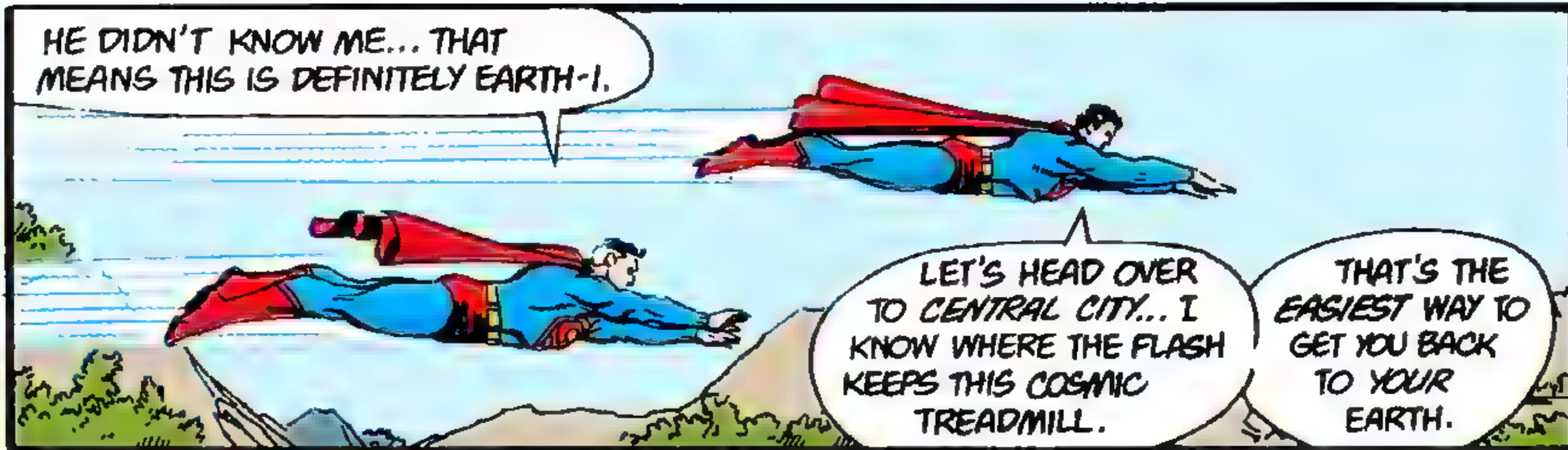
CORDON? SORRY, SUPERMAN
...NOTHING LIKE THAT HERE.

NOTHING LIKE THAT
FOR THE LAST FEW
MONTHS.



SAY, YOUR FRIEND HAS A GREAT UNIFORM, TOO...

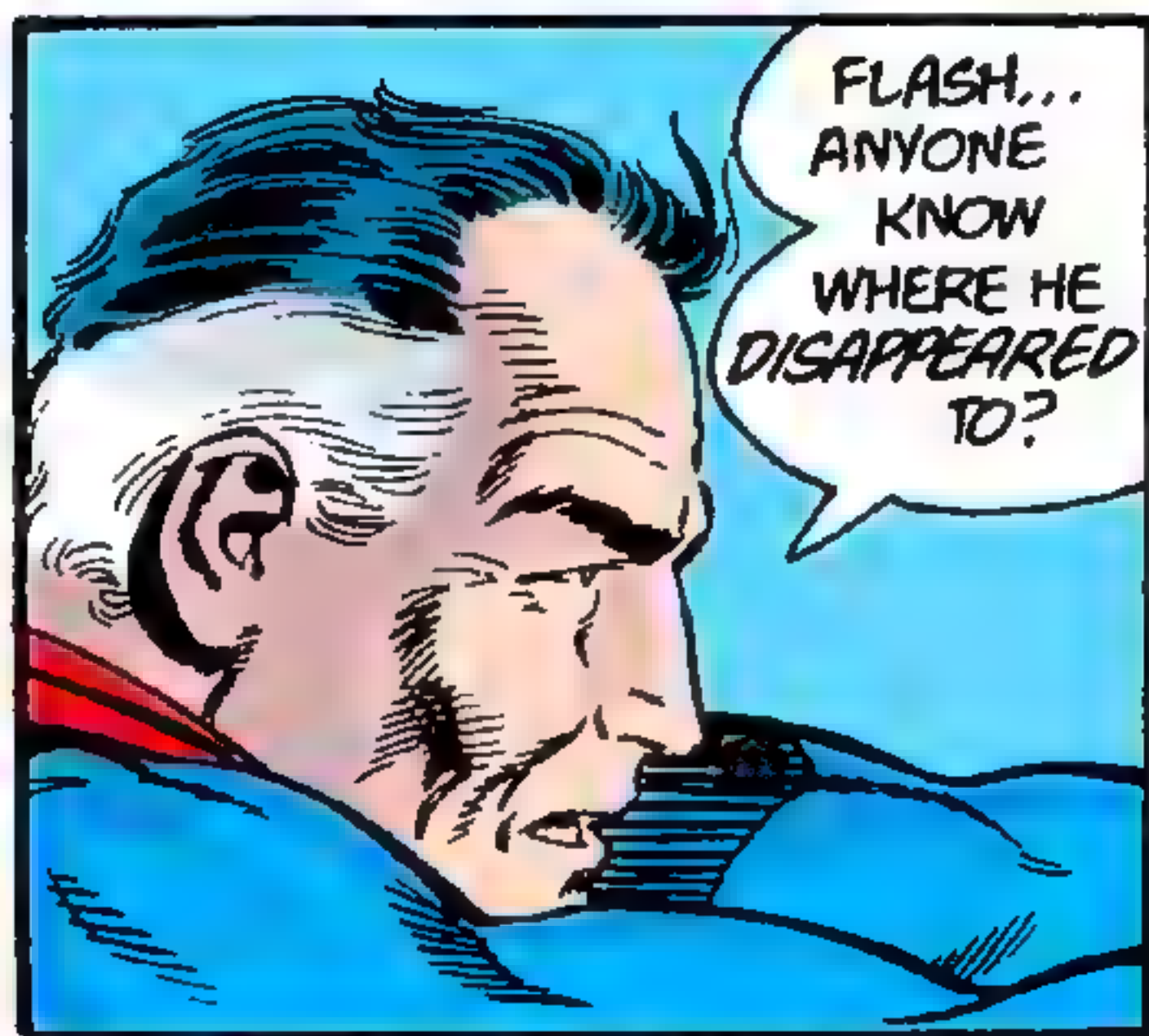
...BUT DIDN'T HE GET THAT "S" INSIGNIA ALL WRONG?



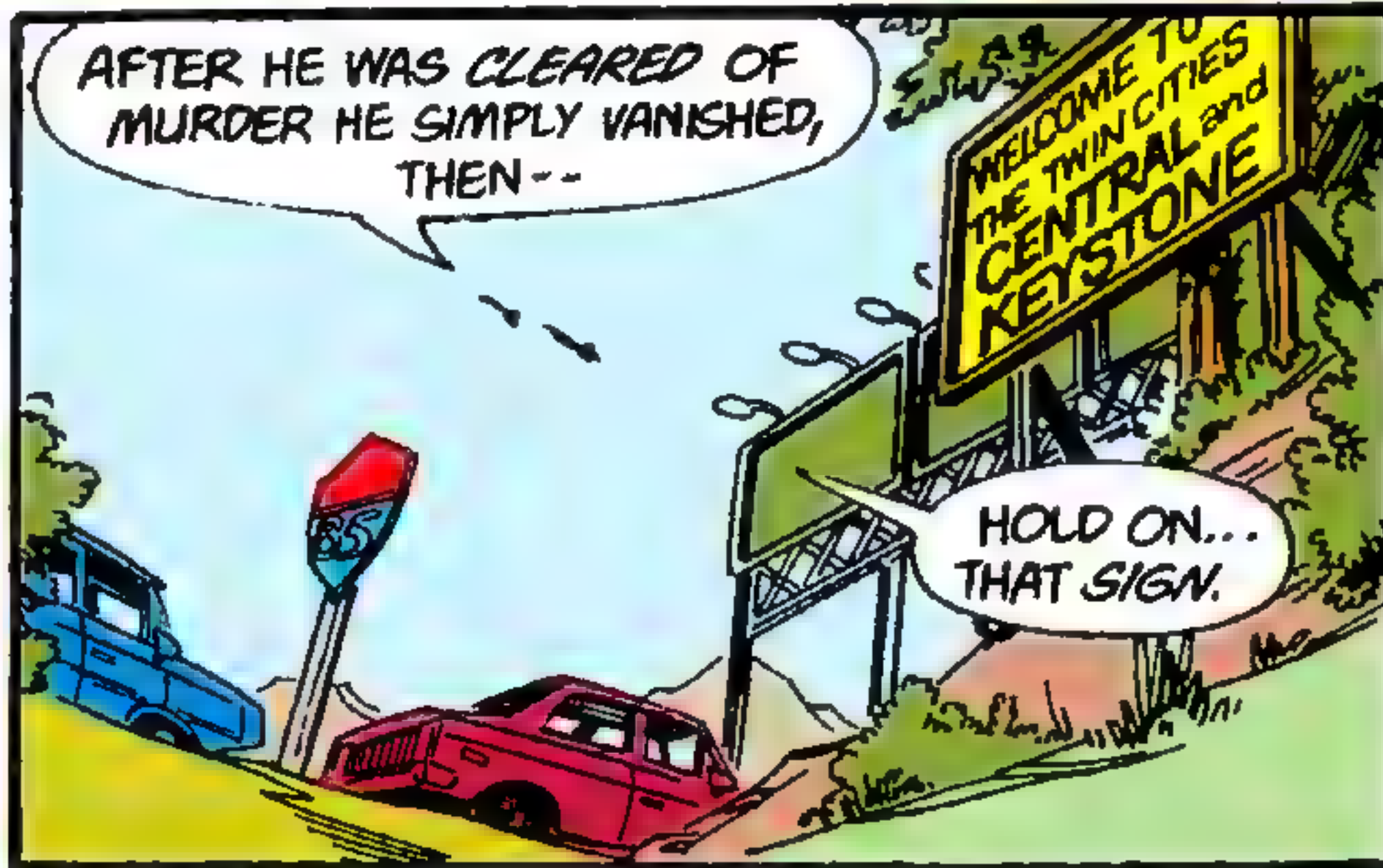
HE DIDN'T KNOW ME... THAT MEANS THIS IS DEFINITELY EARTH-1.

LET'S HEAD OVER TO CENTRAL CITY... I KNOW WHERE THE FLASH KEEPS THIS COSMIC TREADMILL.

THAT'S THE EASIEST WAY TO GET YOU BACK TO YOUR EARTH.



FLASH... ANYONE KNOW WHERE HE DISAPPEARED TO?

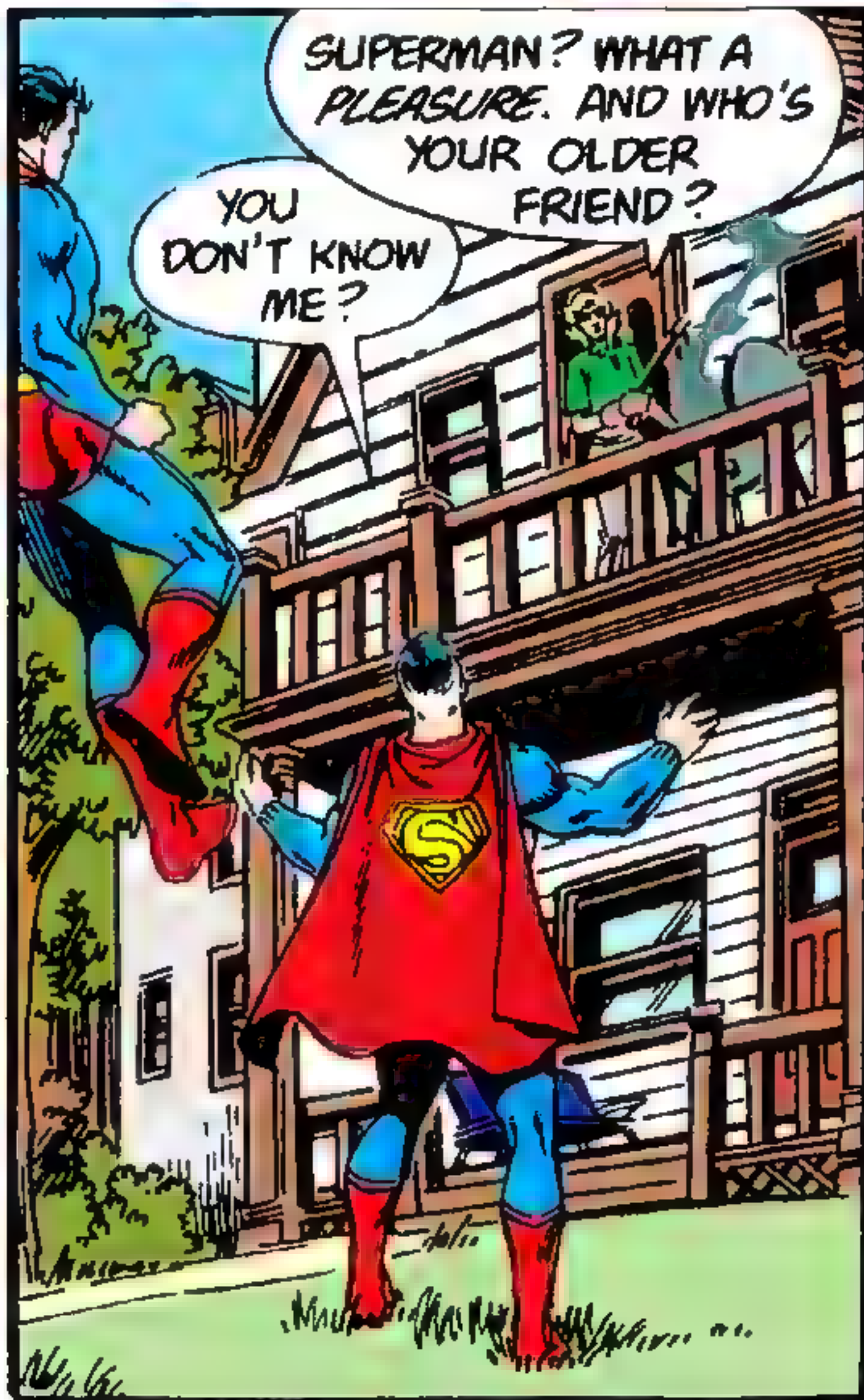


AFTER HE WAS CLEARED OF MURDER HE SIMPLY VANISHED, THEN --

HOLD ON... THAT SIGN.



GREAT KRYPTON, THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.



SUPERMAN? WHAT A PLEASURE. AND WHO'S YOUR OLDER FRIEND?

YOU DON'T KNOW ME?



I SURE KNOW THE COSTUME, BUT I DON'T THINK WE'VE MET, HAVE WE?

BUT IF YOU'RE WITH SUPERMAN, YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO STAY.



I GOT A FEW EXTRA T-BONES I CAN GRILL UP.

HUH? JOAN'S FROM MY EARTH. LOIS AND I HAVE EATEN HERE A DOZEN TIMES.



AAAAH, I WAS WONDERING WHO JOAN WAS TALKING TO.

GUESS YOU TWO ARE HERE ABOUT THE KEYSTONE-CENTRAL CITY PROBLEM, EH?



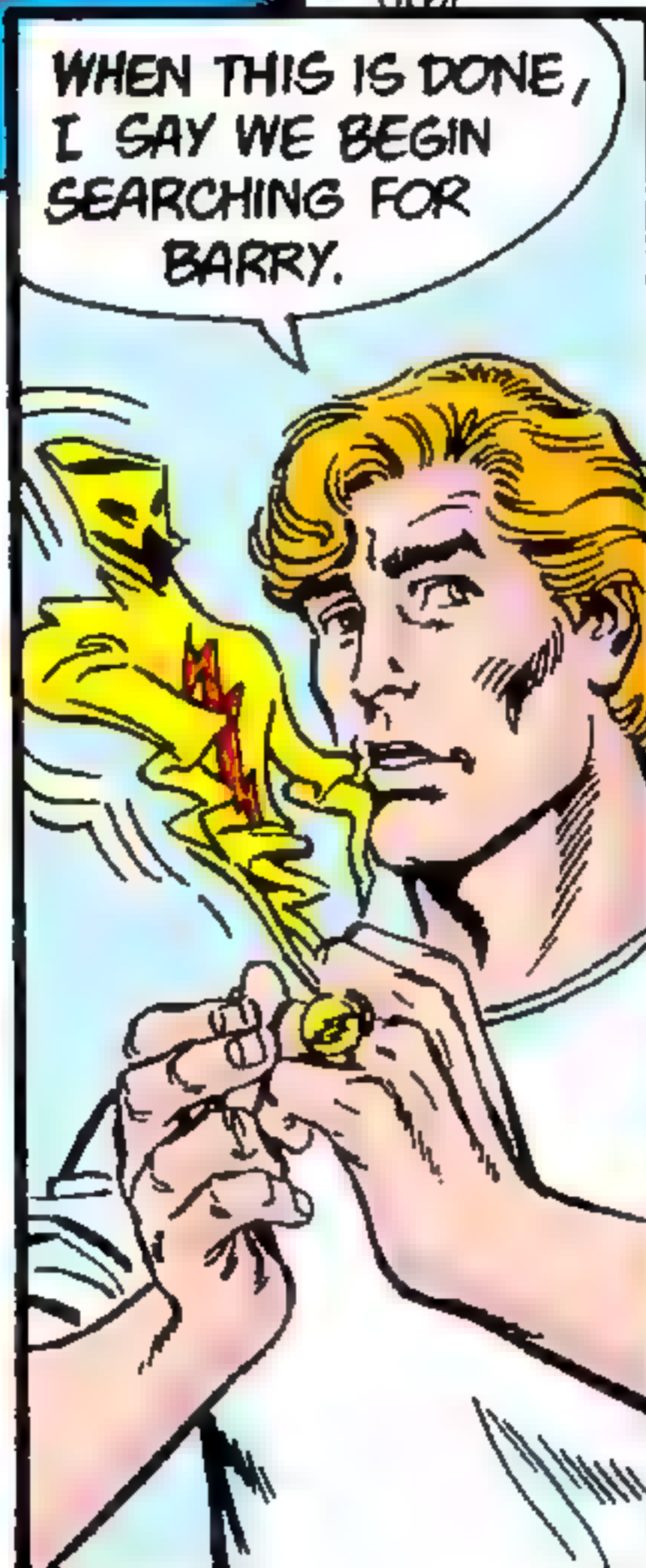
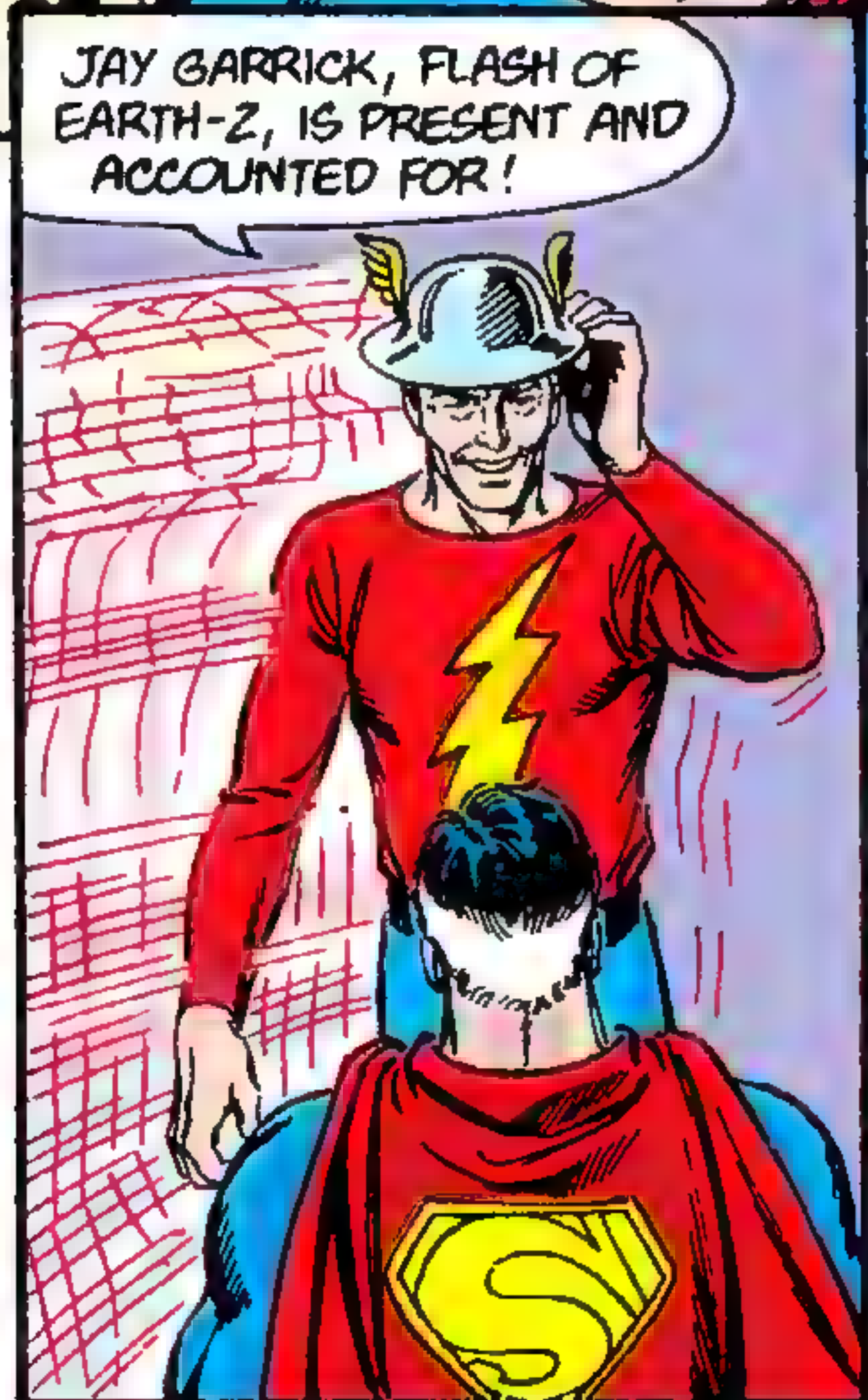
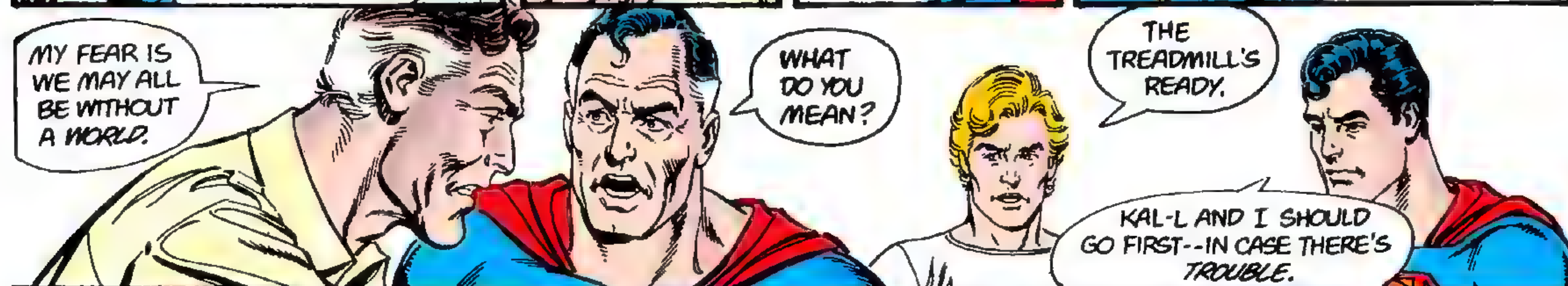
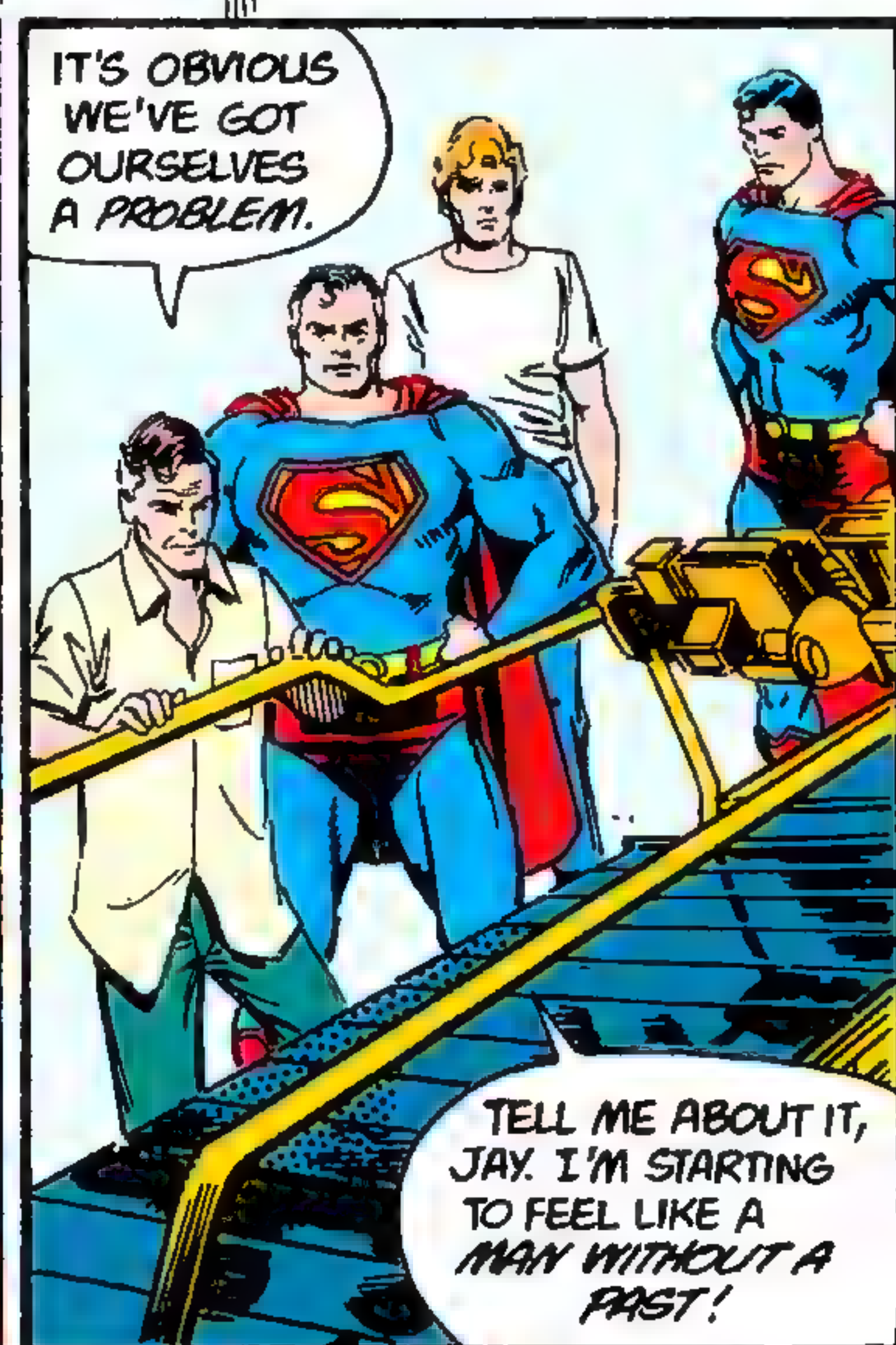
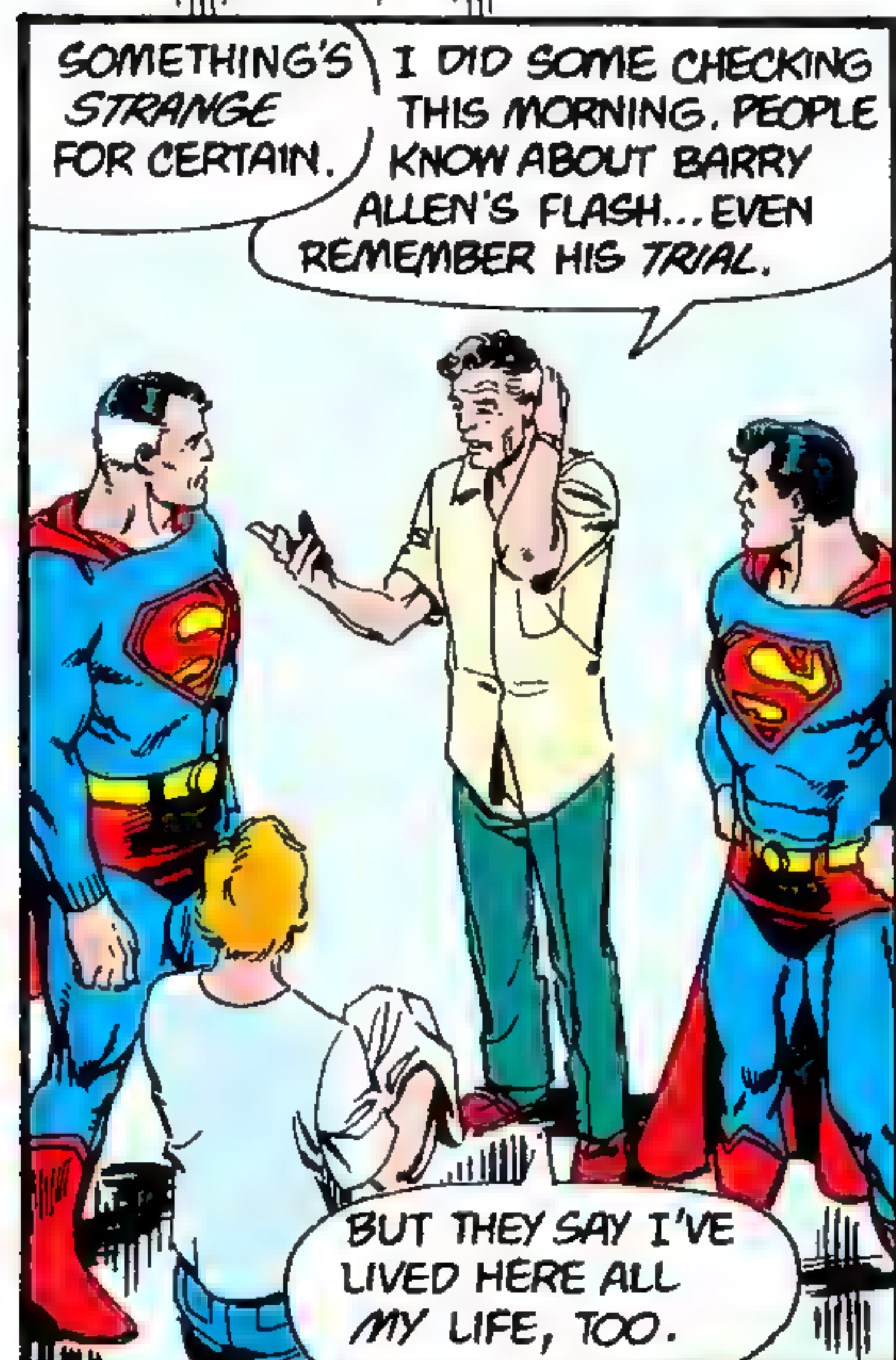
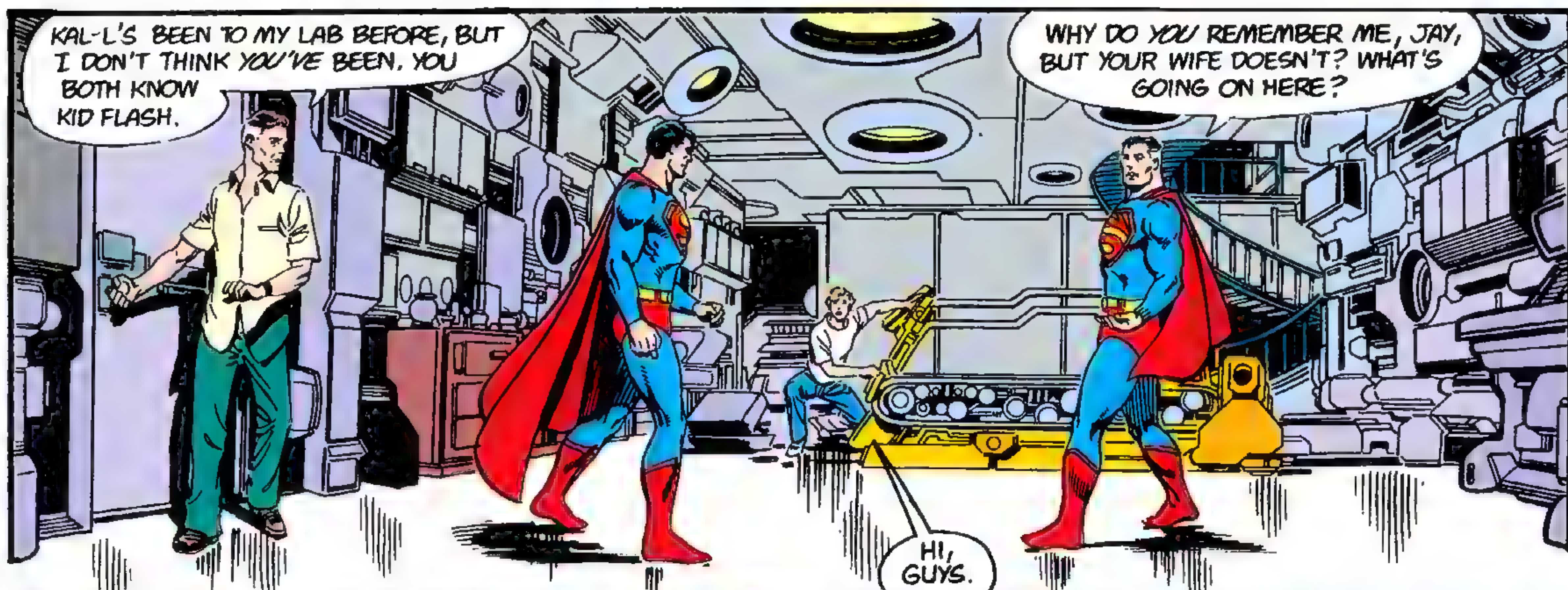
YOU RECOGNIZE ME, JAY? YOU ACTUALLY KNOW ME.

OF COURSE I DO, CLARK... I KNOW BOTH OF YOU.

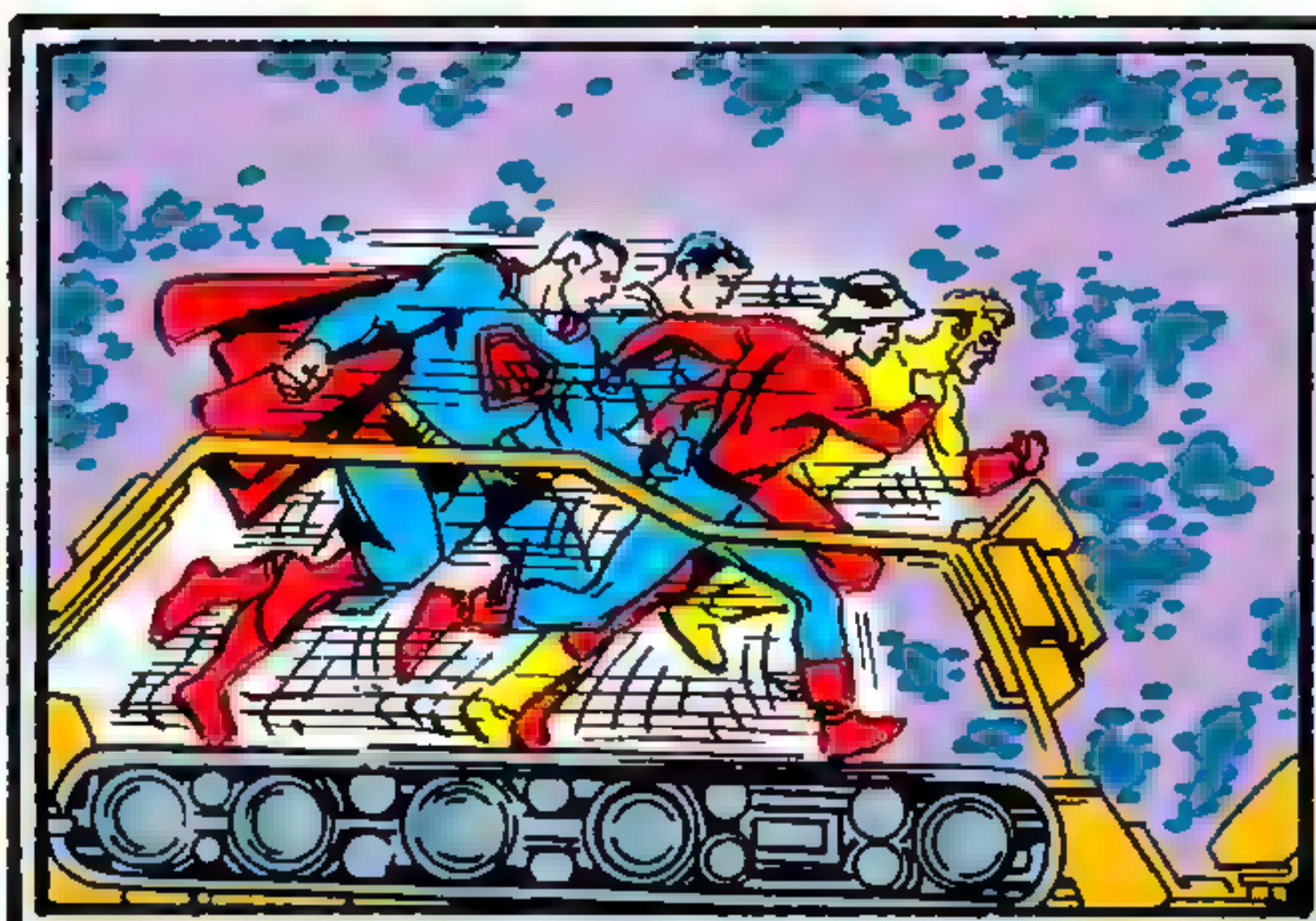


BE BACK IN A FEW MINUTES, HONEY.

DON'T BE TOO LONG. THE STEAKS ARE ALMOST READY.



WALLY AND I HAVE
DONE THIS BEFORE.



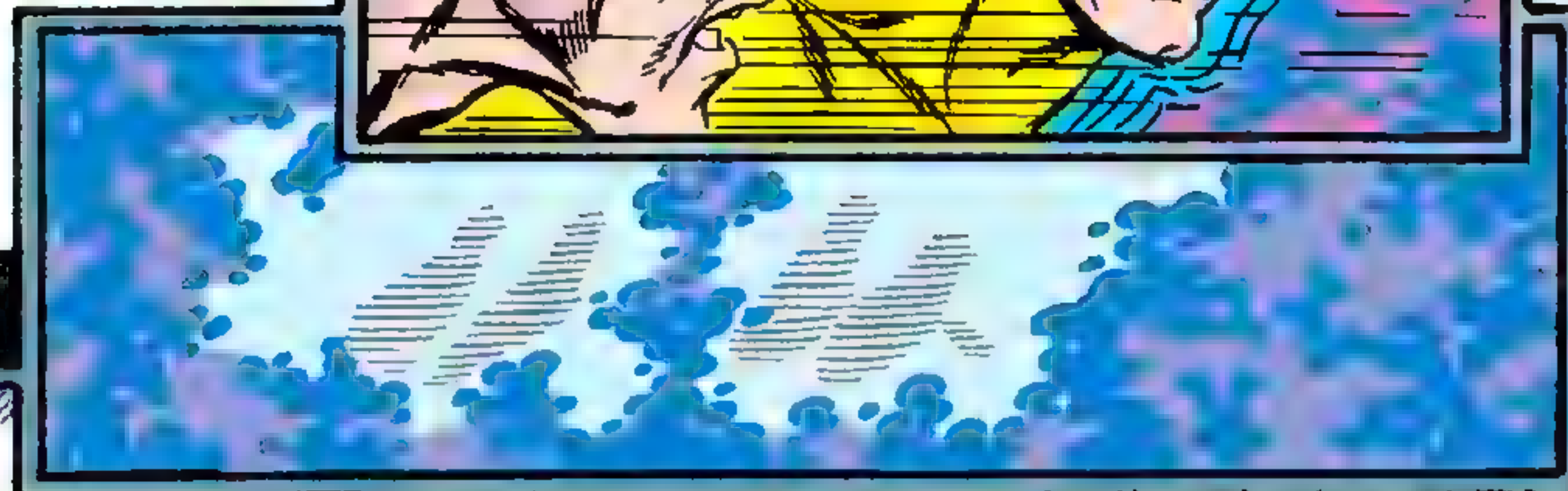
ALONGSIDE THEM THE
UNIVERSE BECOMES A
SOLID WALL OF LIGHT.

THE LIGHT,
COMPOSED OF REDS AND BLUES AND
YELLOWS AND GREENS, BECOMES AN
ENDLESS VISION OF GRAY...

WE HAVE TO HIT A CERTAIN SPEED
AND VIBRATION FREQUENCY BEFORE
THE PORTAL BETWEEN UNIVERSES OPENS.

LET'S GO!

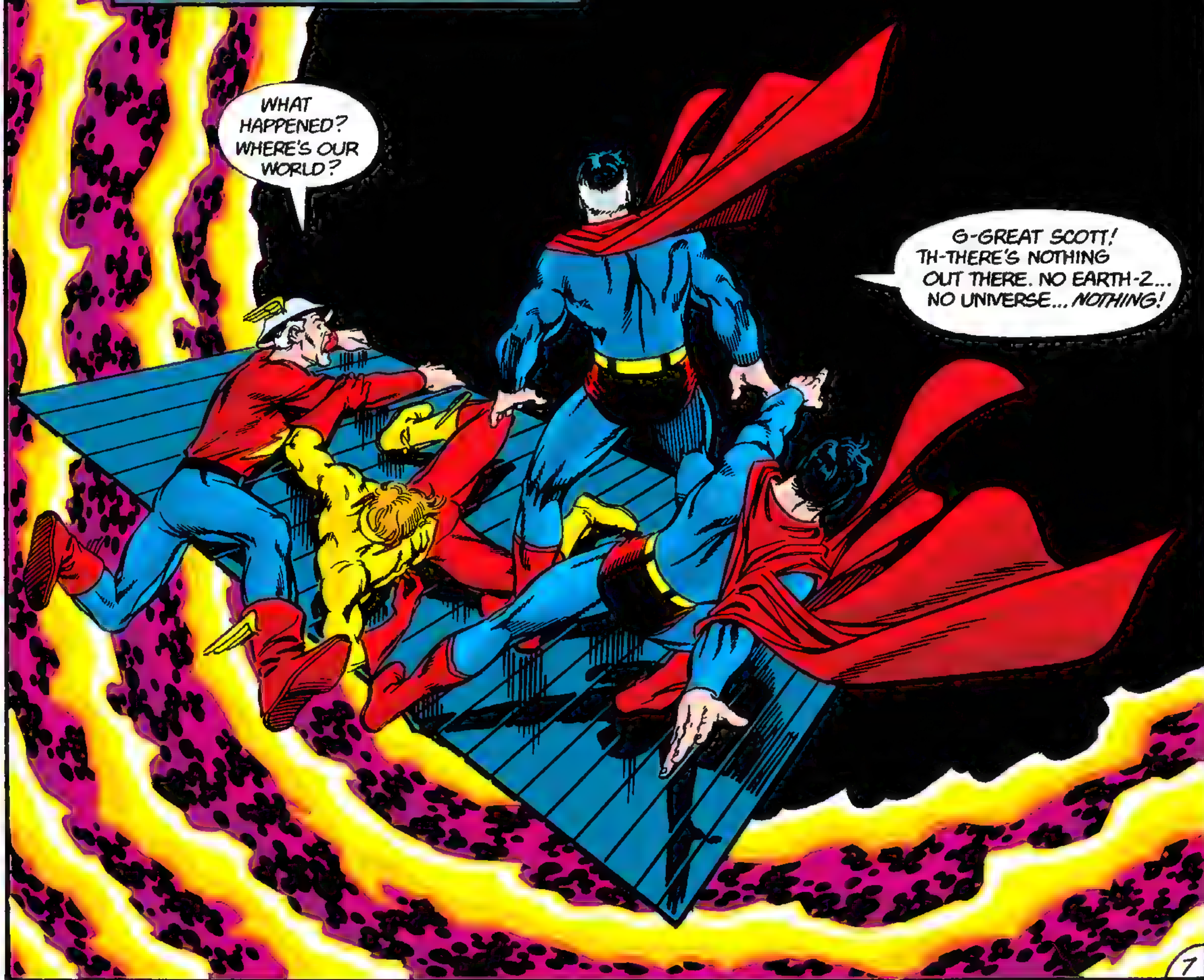
AN INSTANT LATER THEY ARE A BLUR.
A MOMENT MORE AND THEY VANISH
ALTOGETHER.



AND THE GRAY GROWS DARK AND
OMINOUS UNTIL THE SPACE SURROUNDING
THEM BECOMES AN ENDLESS EXPANSE
OF BLACK.

WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHERE'S OUR
WORLD?

G-GREAT SCOTT!
TH-THERE'S NOTHING
OUT THERE. NO EARTH-2...
NO UNIVERSE... NOTHING!



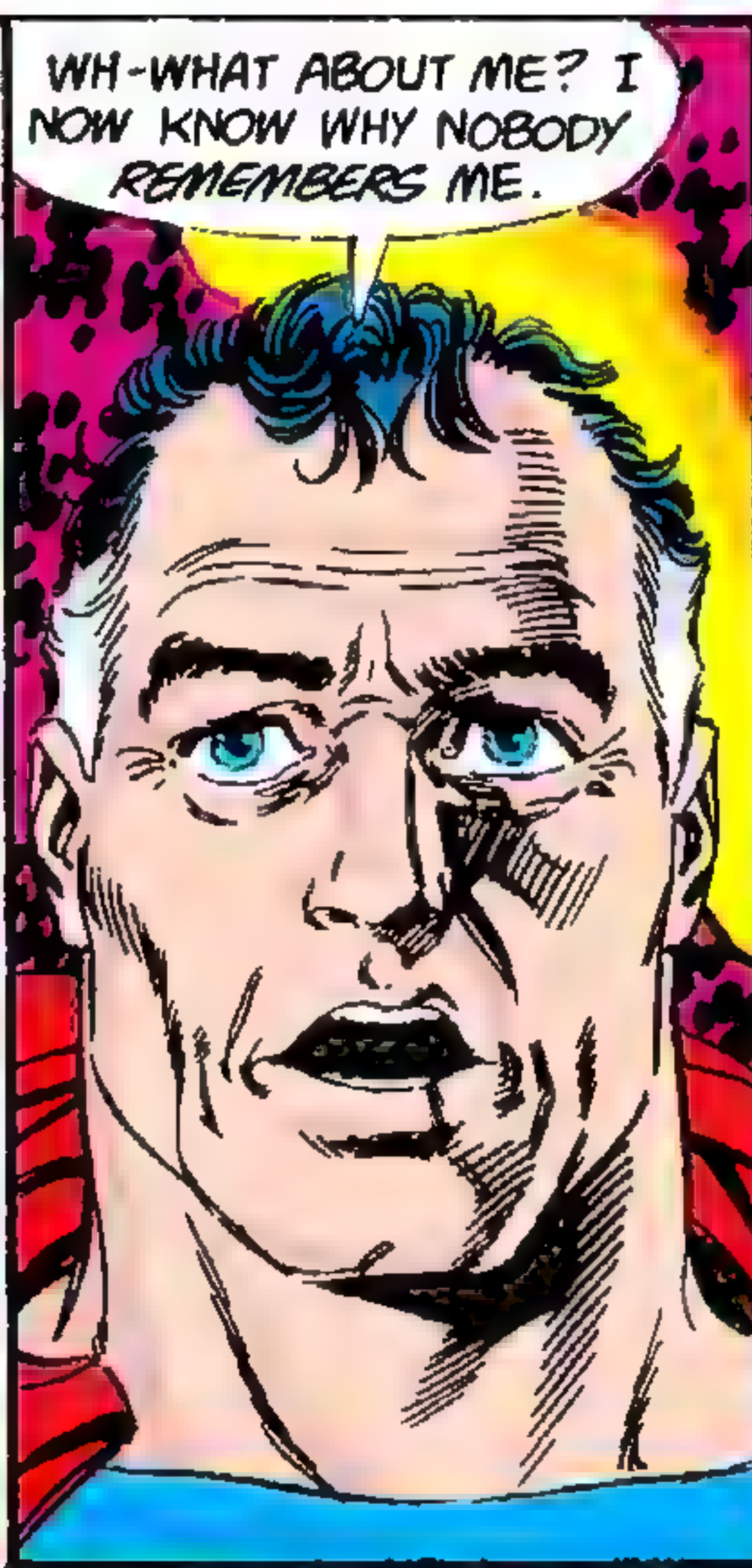


WE'VE GOT TO TURN BACK... RETURN HOME. DON'T YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED?

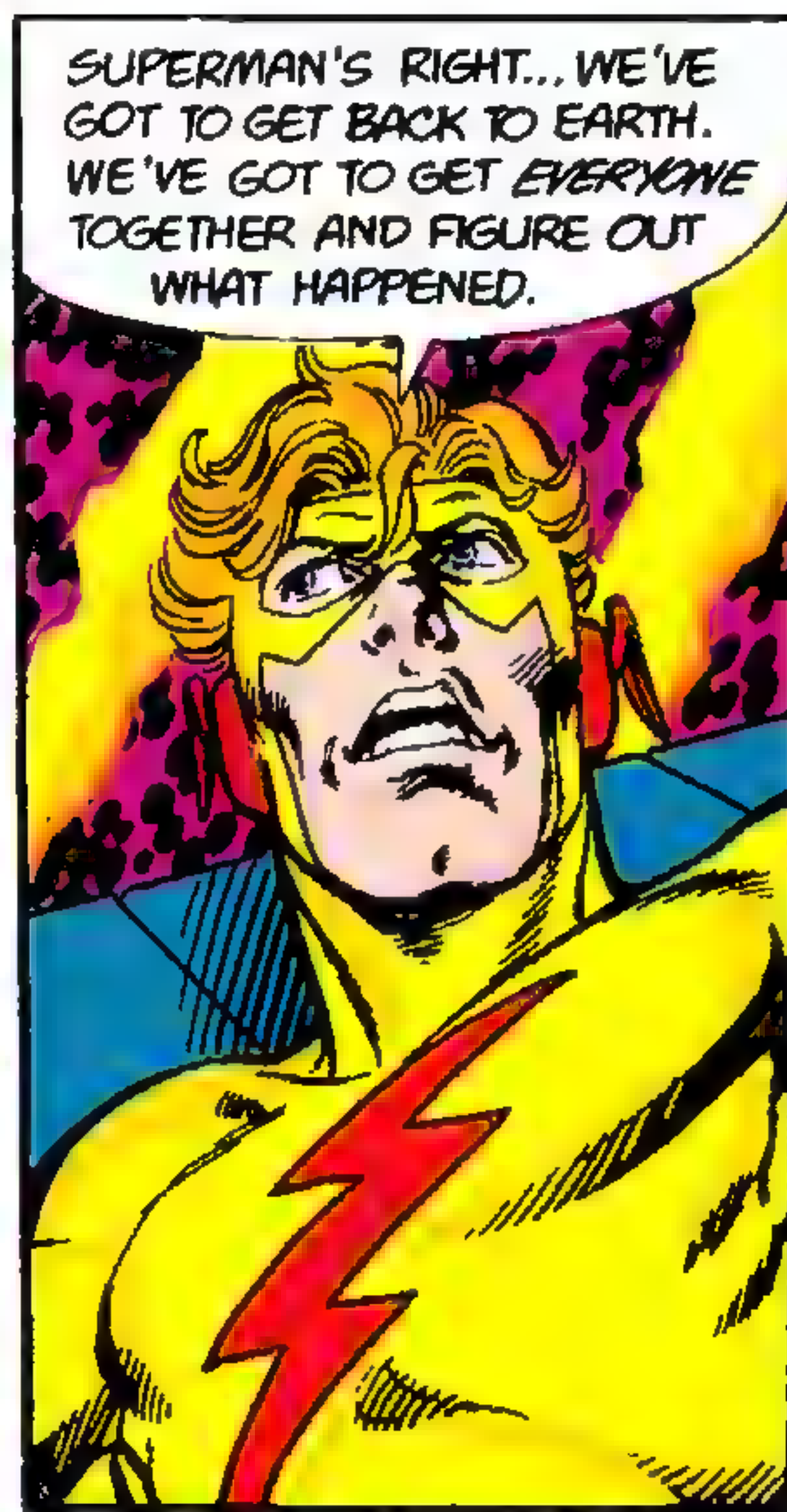


MY UNIVERSE DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE. THERE IS NO EARTH-2.

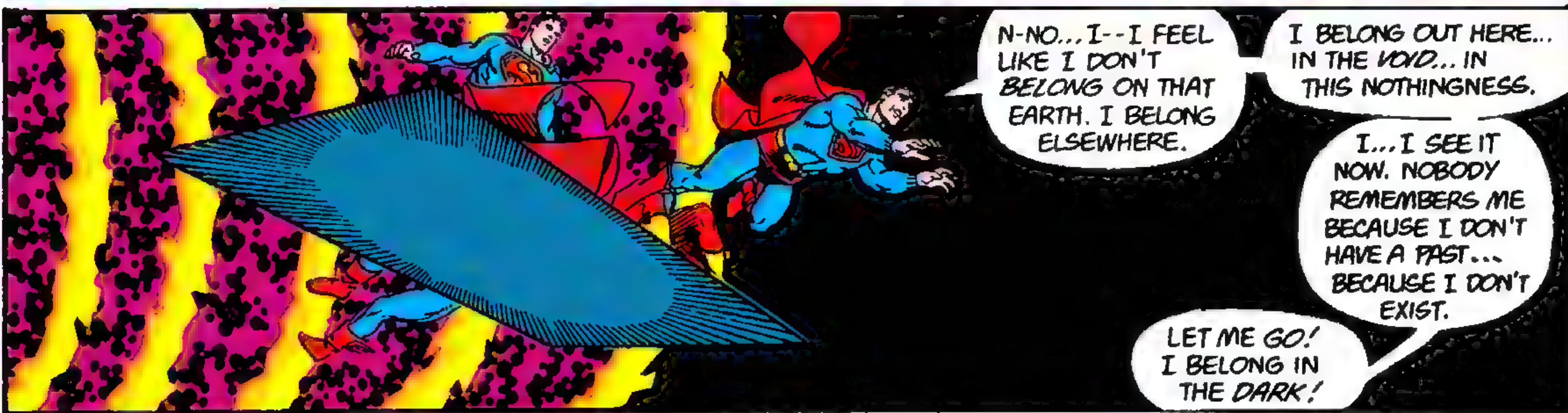
NOTHING EXISTS BUT ONE EARTH... ONE UNIVERSE!



WH-WHAT ABOUT ME? I NOW KNOW WHY NOBODY REMEMBERS ME.



SUPERMAN'S RIGHT... WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO EARTH. WE'VE GOT TO GET EVERYONE TOGETHER AND FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED.



N-NO... I--I FEEL LIKE I DON'T BELONG ON THAT EARTH. I BELONG ELSEWHERE.

I BELONG OUT HERE... IN THE VOID... IN THIS NOTHINGNESS.

I... I SEE IT NOW. NOBODY REMEMBERS ME BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE A PAST... BECAUSE I DON'T EXIST.

LET ME GO! I BELONG IN THE DARK!



NO... WHATEVER'S GOING ON HERE, YOU STILL EXIST. YOU'RE REAL... TANGIBLE. YOU BELONG.

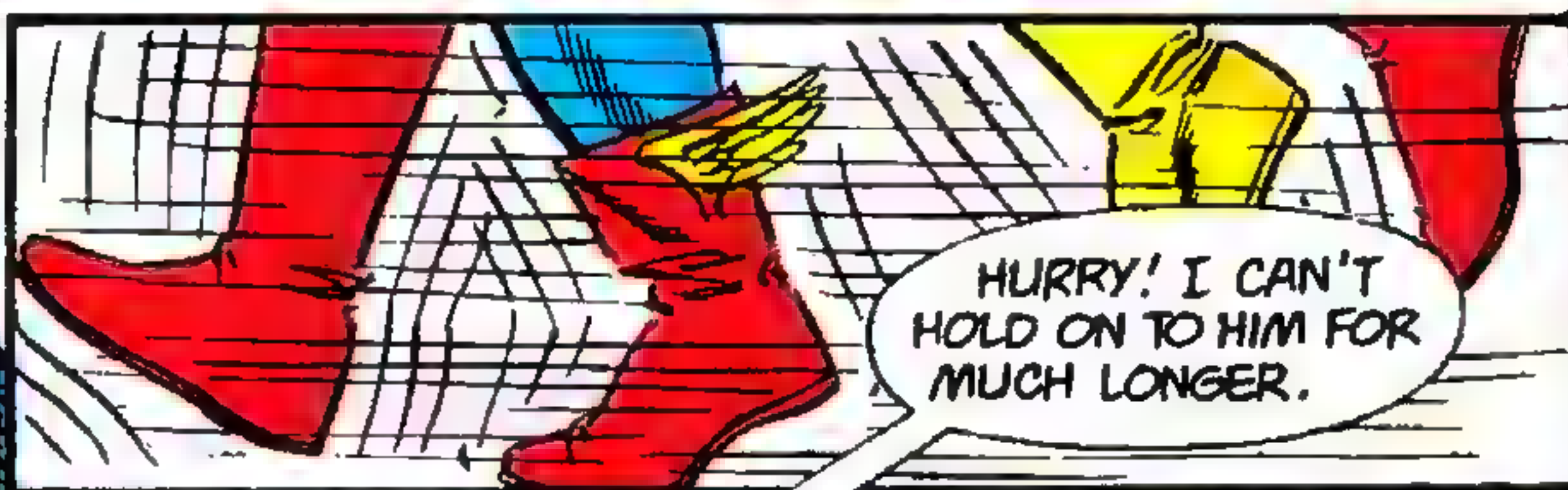
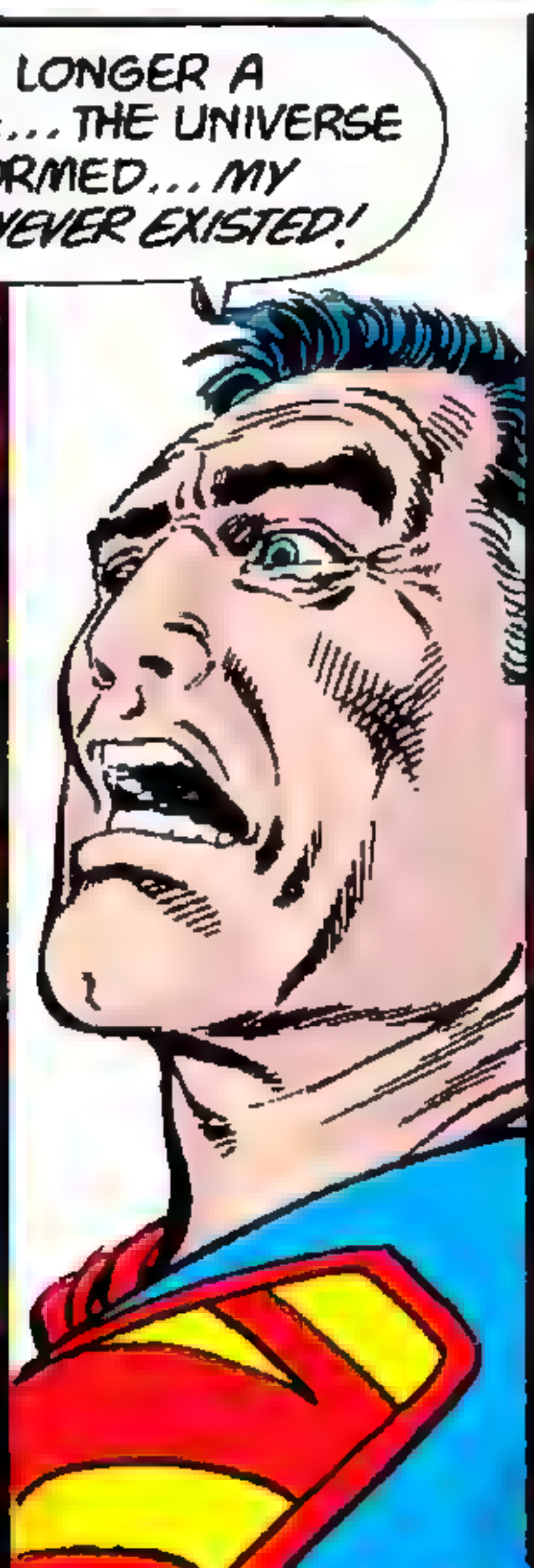
WE CAN SORT OUT THE WHYS LATER... MAYBE EVEN THE HOWS... BUT YOU'RE NOT STAYING IN THIS NOTHINGNESS.

YOU'RE COMING HOME!



DON'T YOU SEE? I DON'T HAVE A HOME.

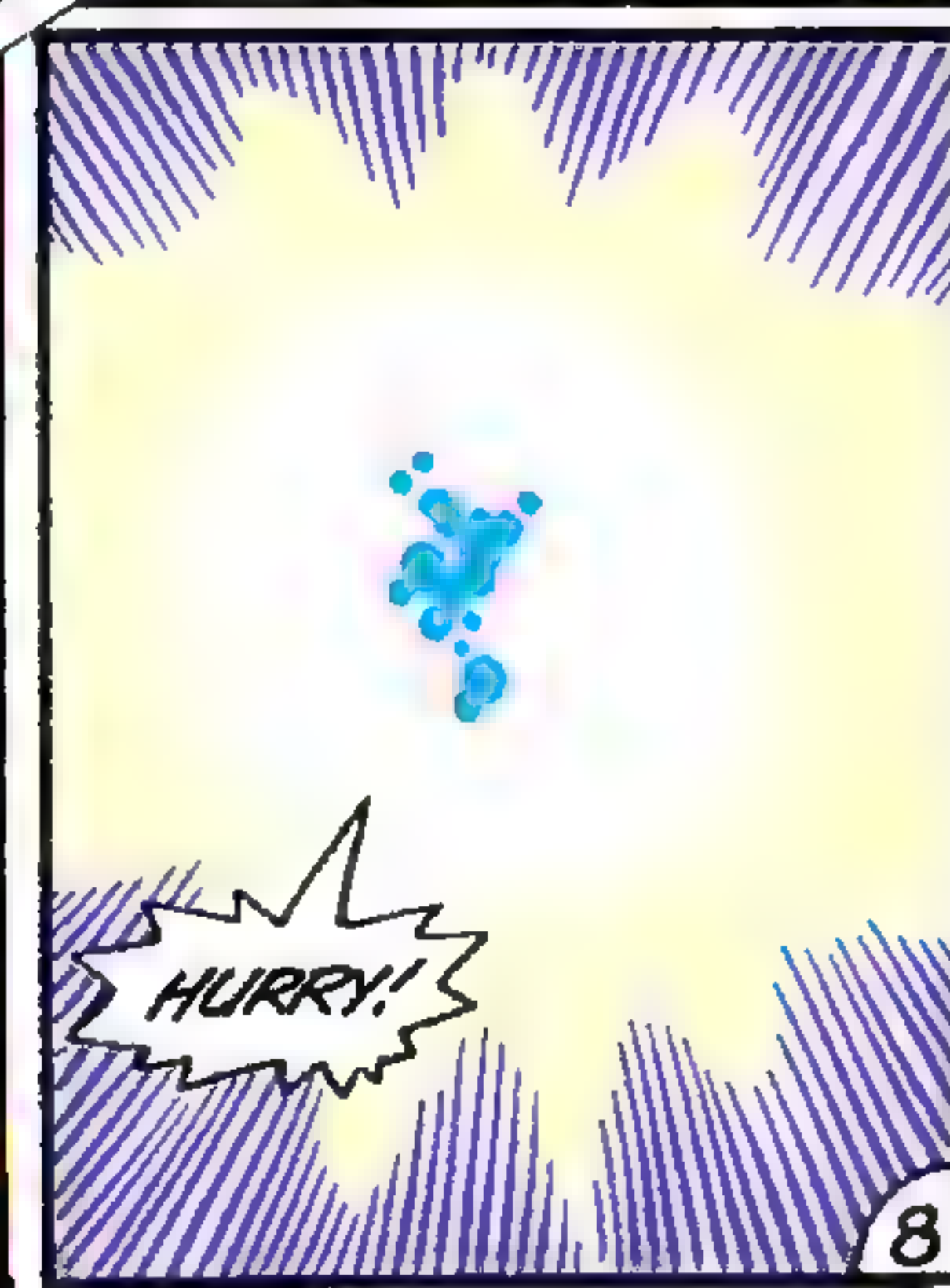
THERE'S NO LONGER A MULTIVERSE... THE UNIVERSE WAS RE-FORMED... MY KRYPTON NEVER EXISTED!



HURRY! I CAN'T HOLD ON TO HIM FOR MUCH LONGER.



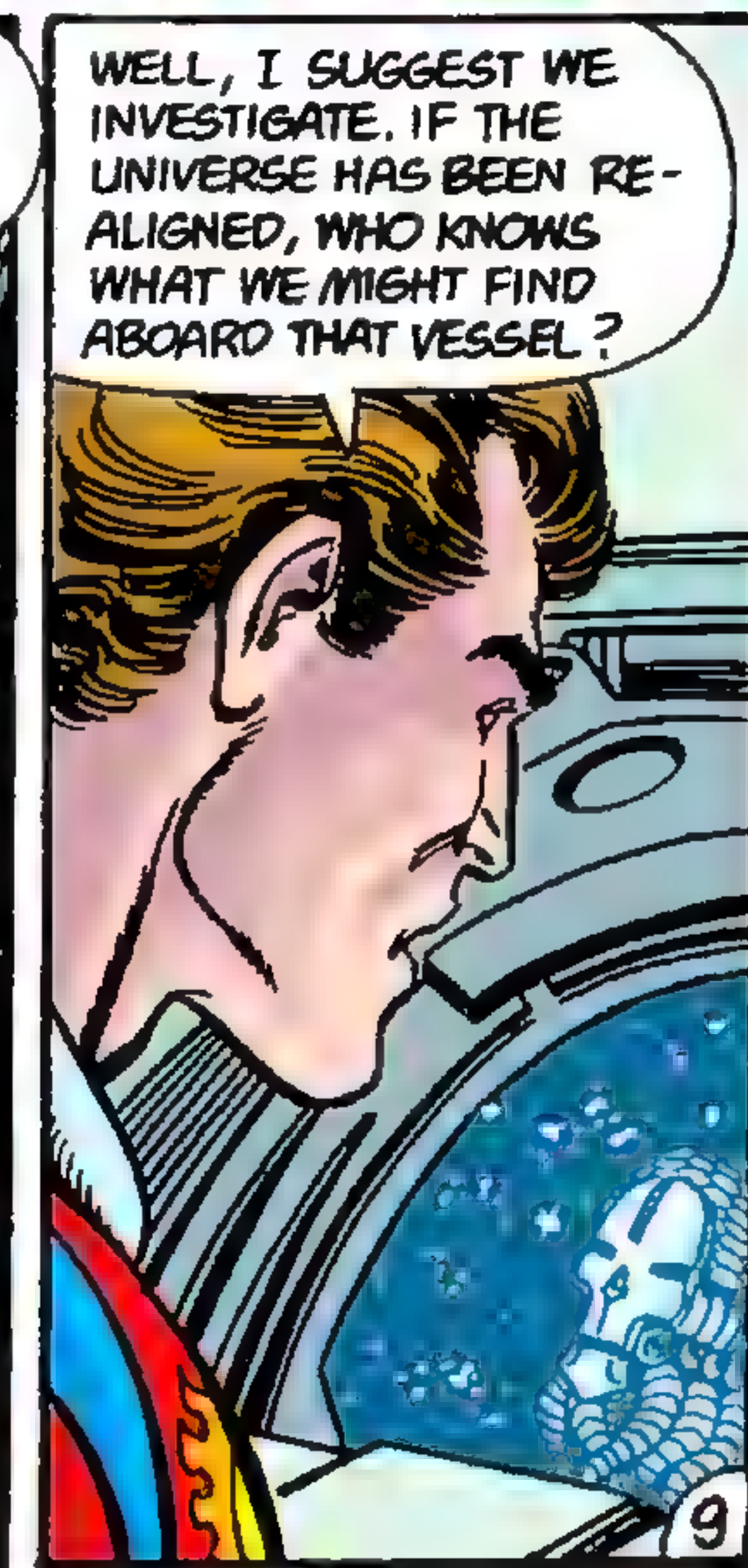
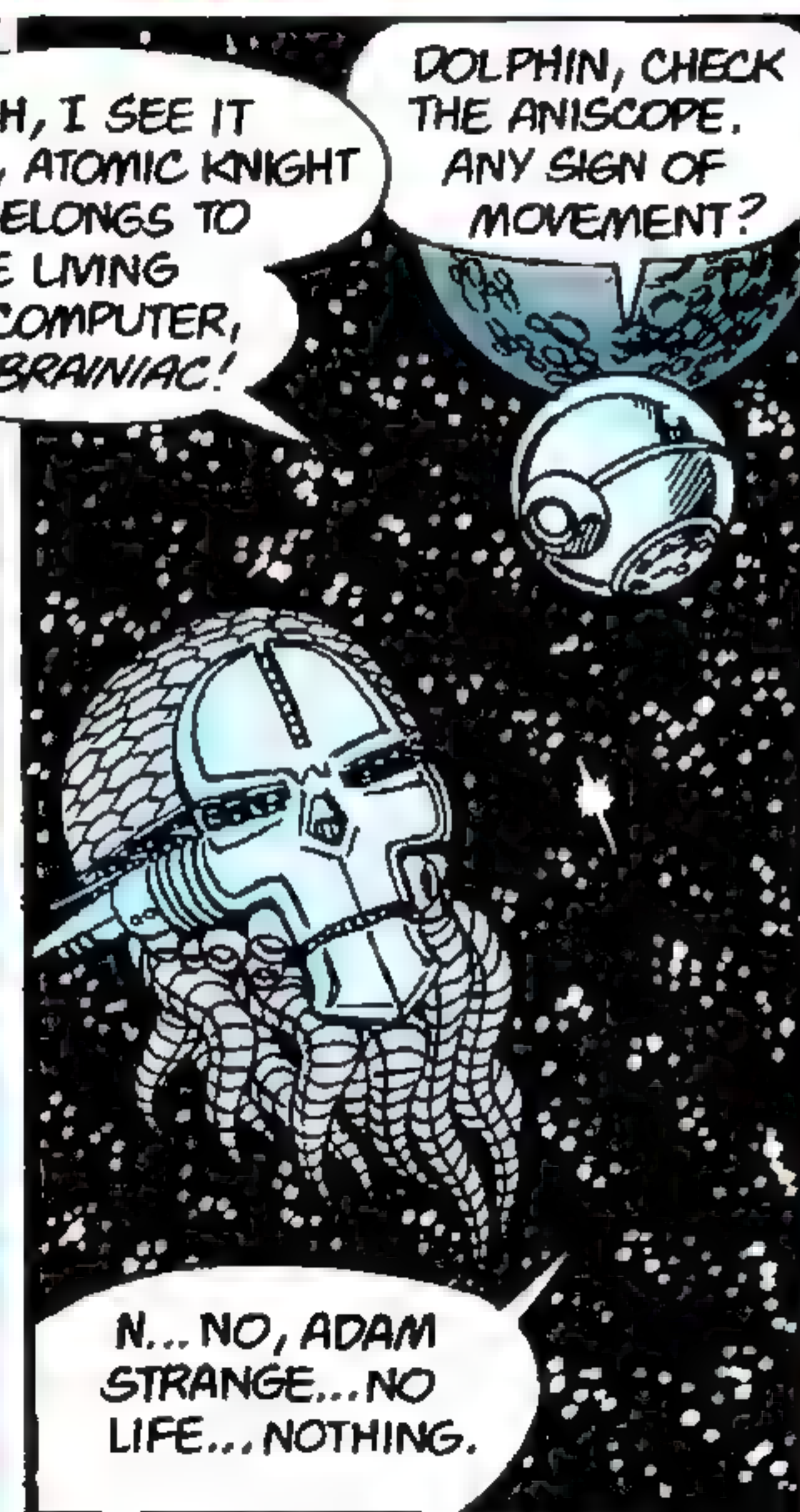
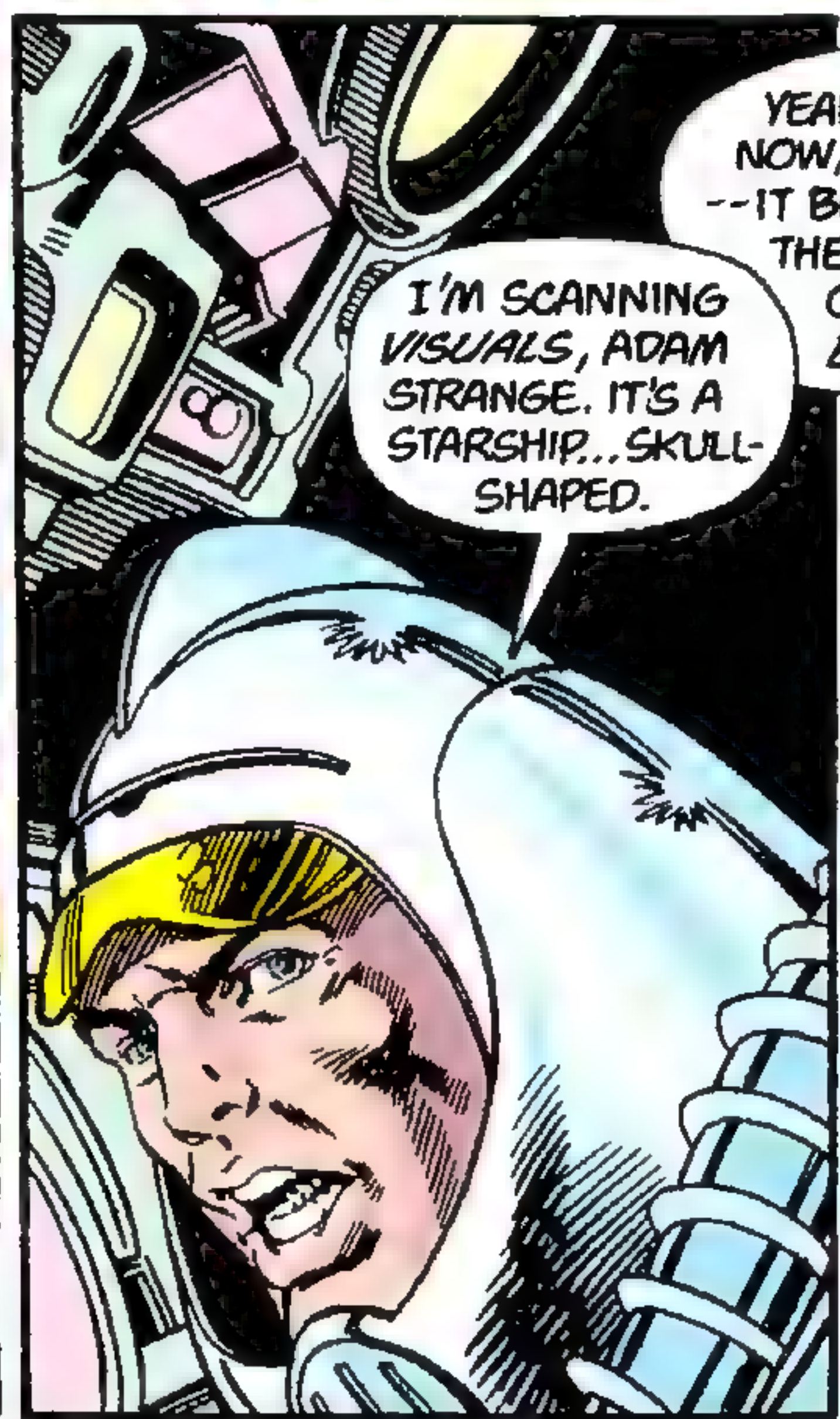
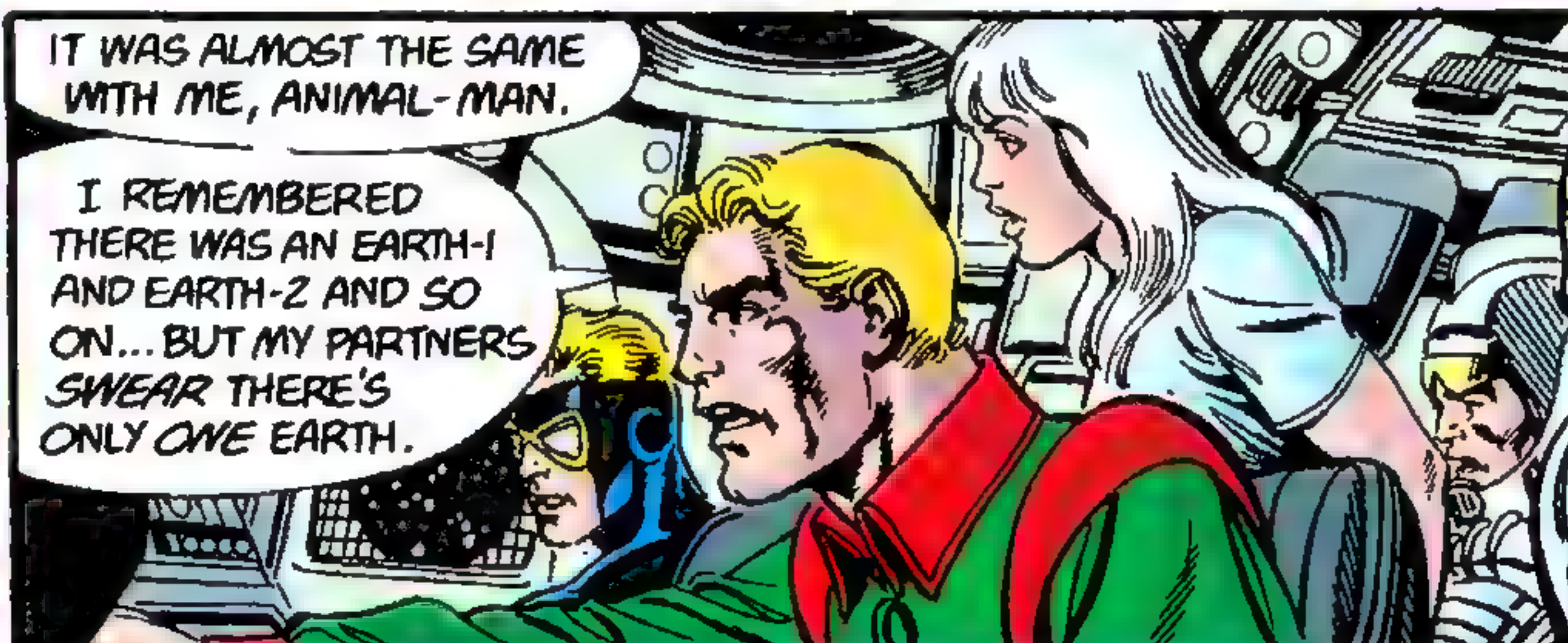
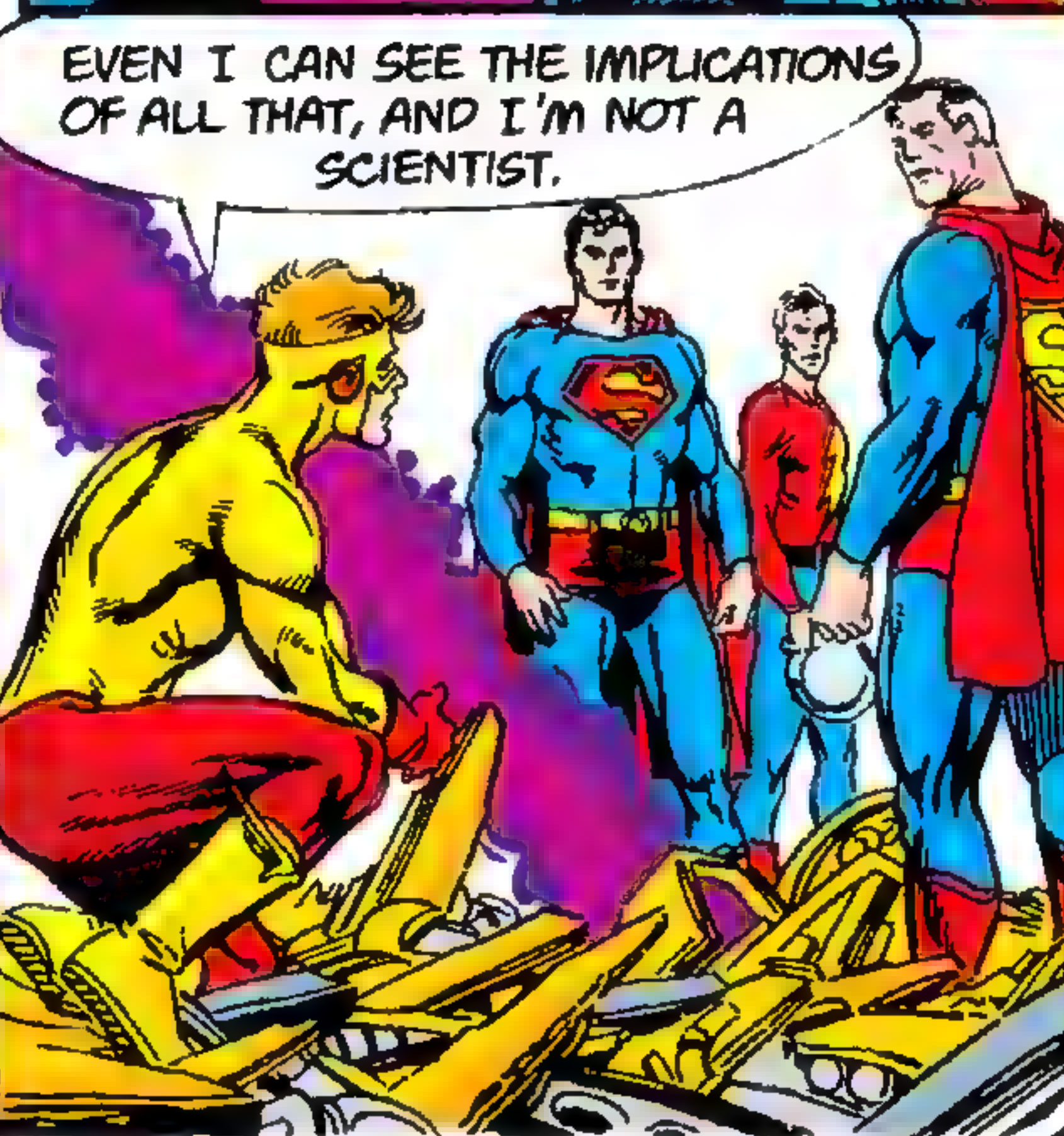
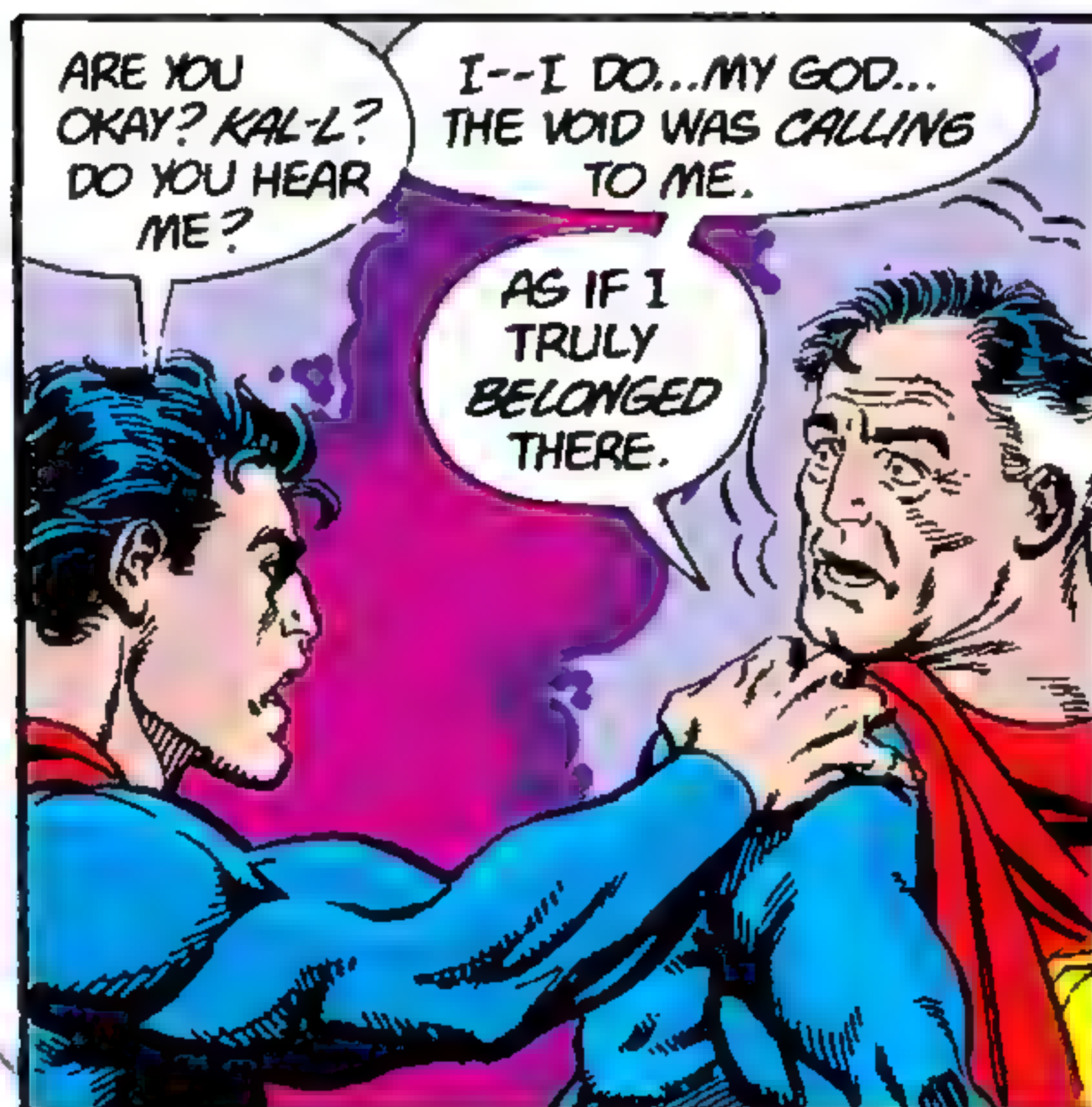
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

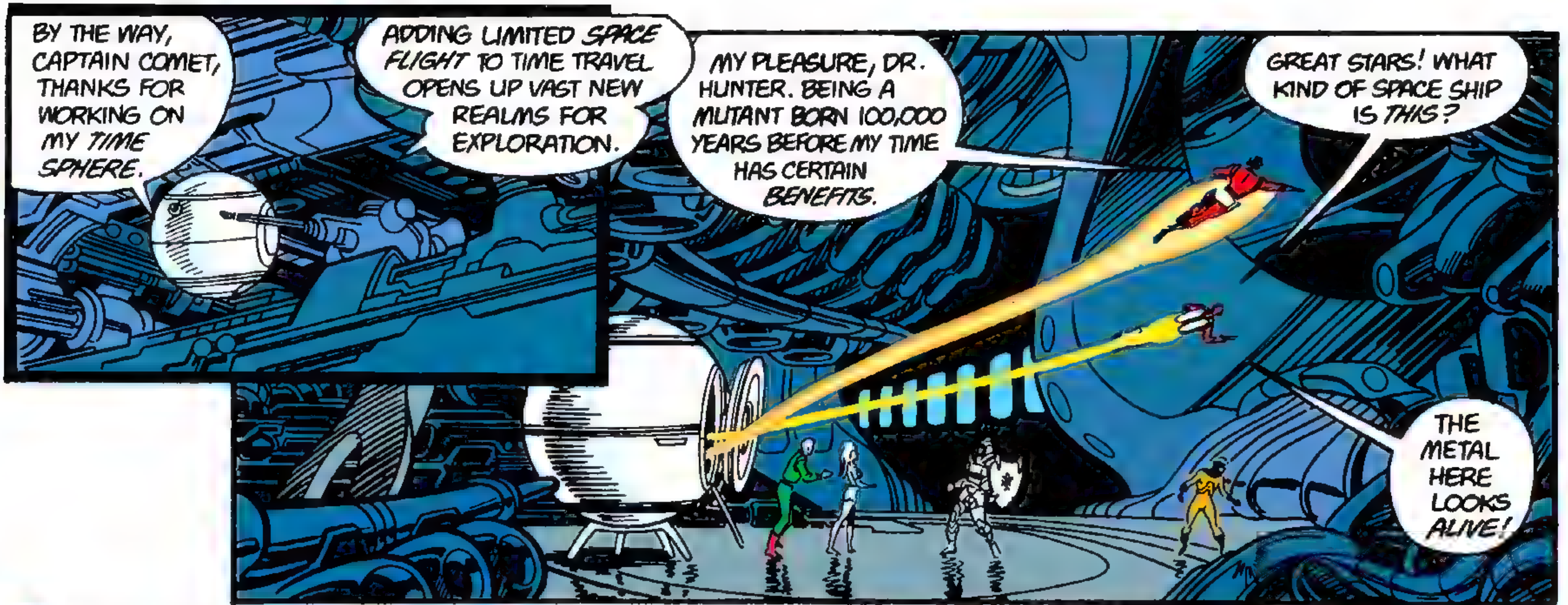


HURRY!



THE COSMIC TREADMILL'S DESTROYED... THIS TIME BEYOND REPAIR.





BY THE WAY, CAPTAIN COMET, THANKS FOR WORKING ON MY TIME SPHERE.

ADDING LIMITED SPACE FLIGHT TO TIME TRAVEL OPENS UP VAST NEW REALMS FOR EXPLORATION.

MY PLEASURE, DR. HUNTER. BEING A MUTANT BORN 100,000 YEARS BEFORE MY TIME HAS CERTAIN BENEFITS.

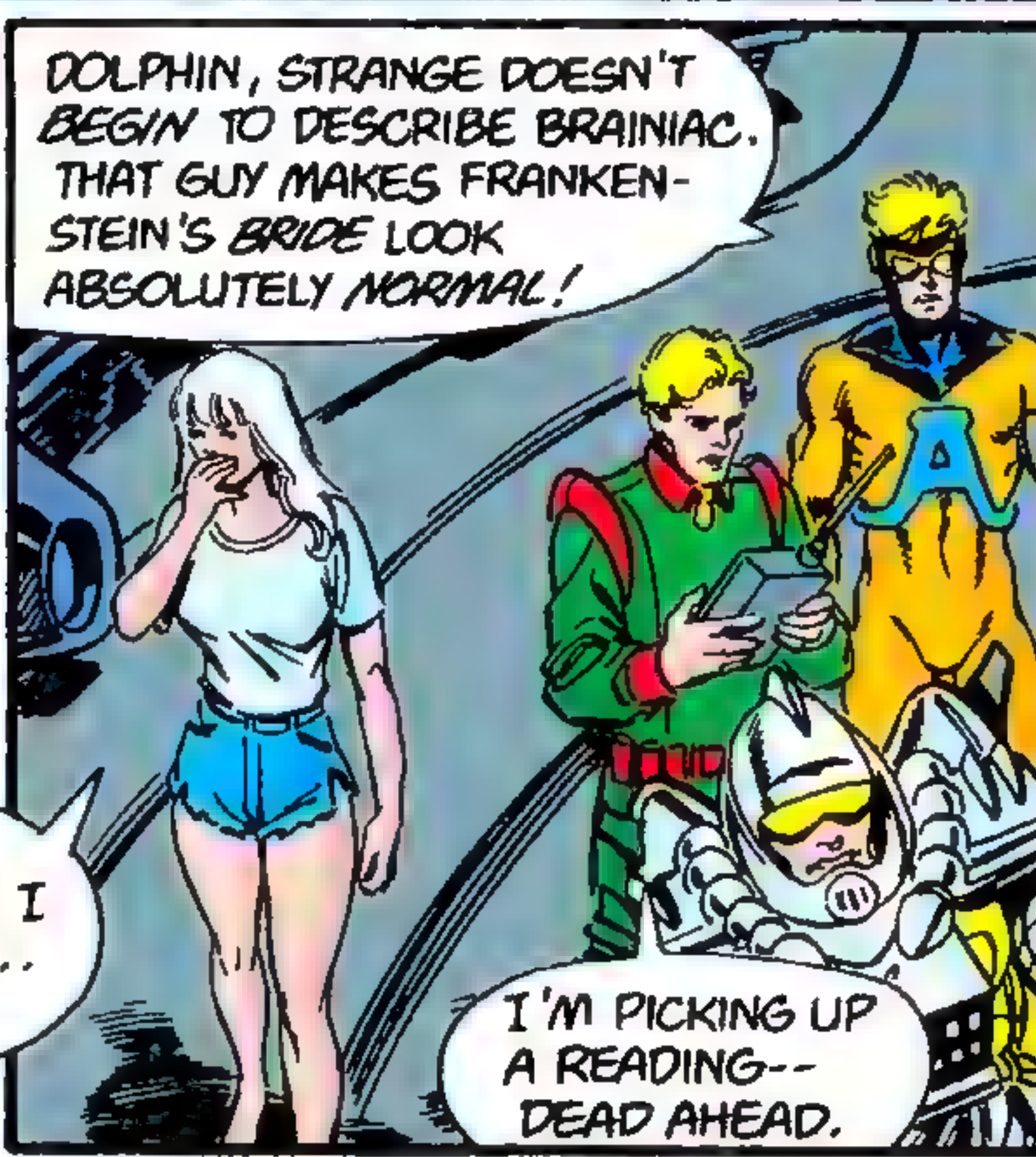
GREAT STARS! WHAT KIND OF SPACE SHIP IS THIS?

THE METAL HERE LOOKS ALIVE!



IT IS ALIVE... AS ALIVE AS WE ARE... AS ALIVE AS BRAINIAC HIMSELF.

IT IS... STRANGE. I DO NOT... LIKE IT.



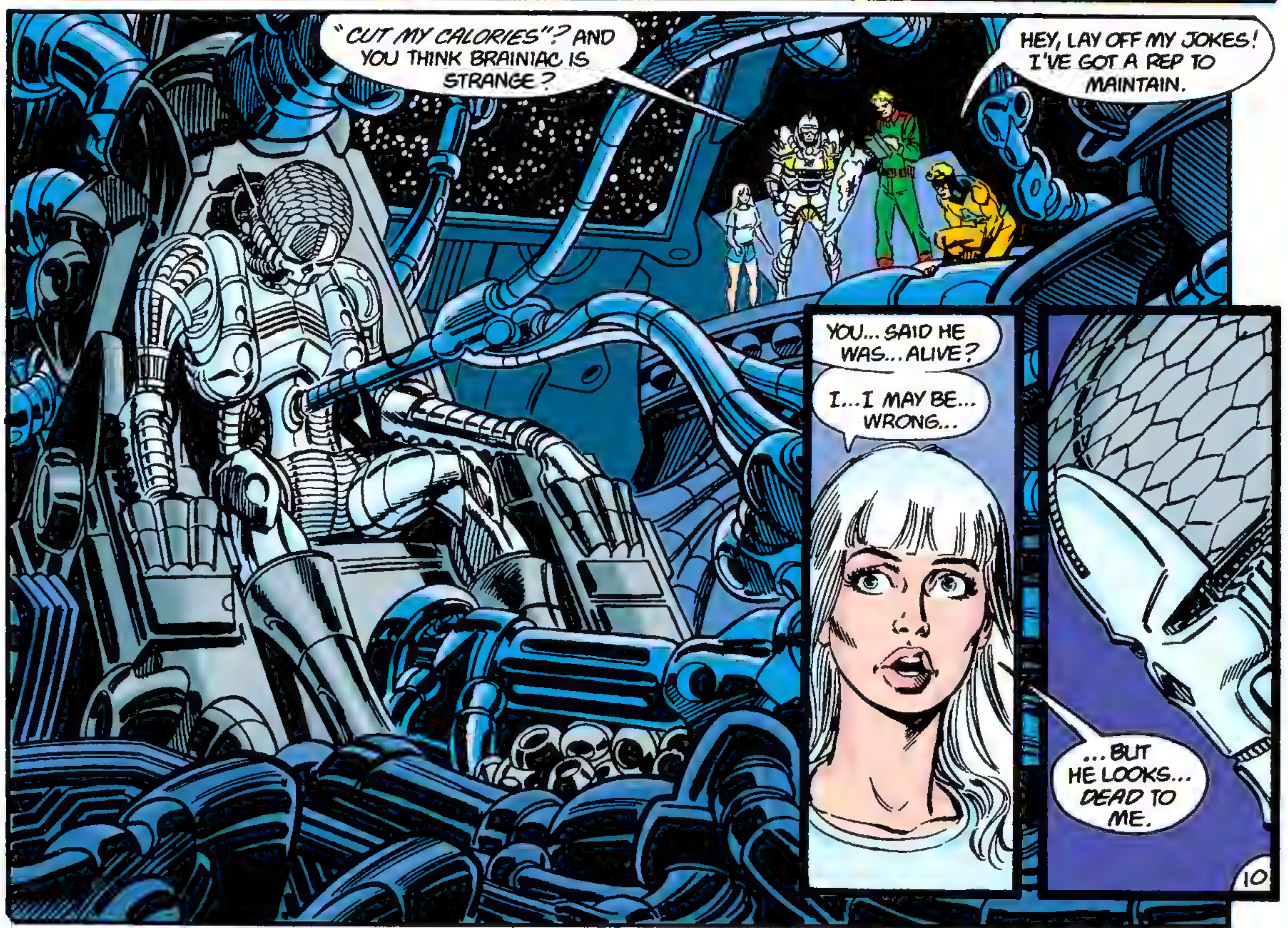
DOLPHIN, STRANGE DOESN'T BEGIN TO DESCRIBE BRAINIAC. THAT GUY MAKES FRANKENSTEIN'S BRIDE LOOK ABSOLUTELY NORMAL!

I'M PICKING UP A READING-- DEAD AHEAD.



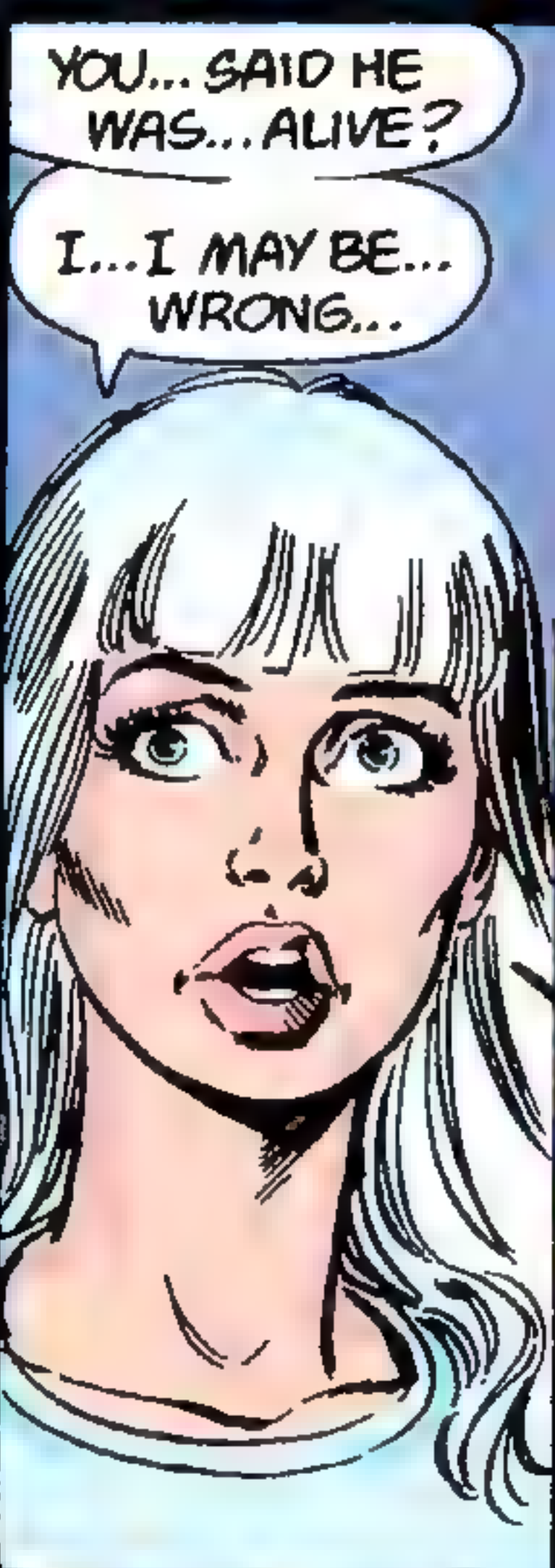
WELL, CUT MY CALORIES AND CALL ME SKINNY!

BRAINIAC!



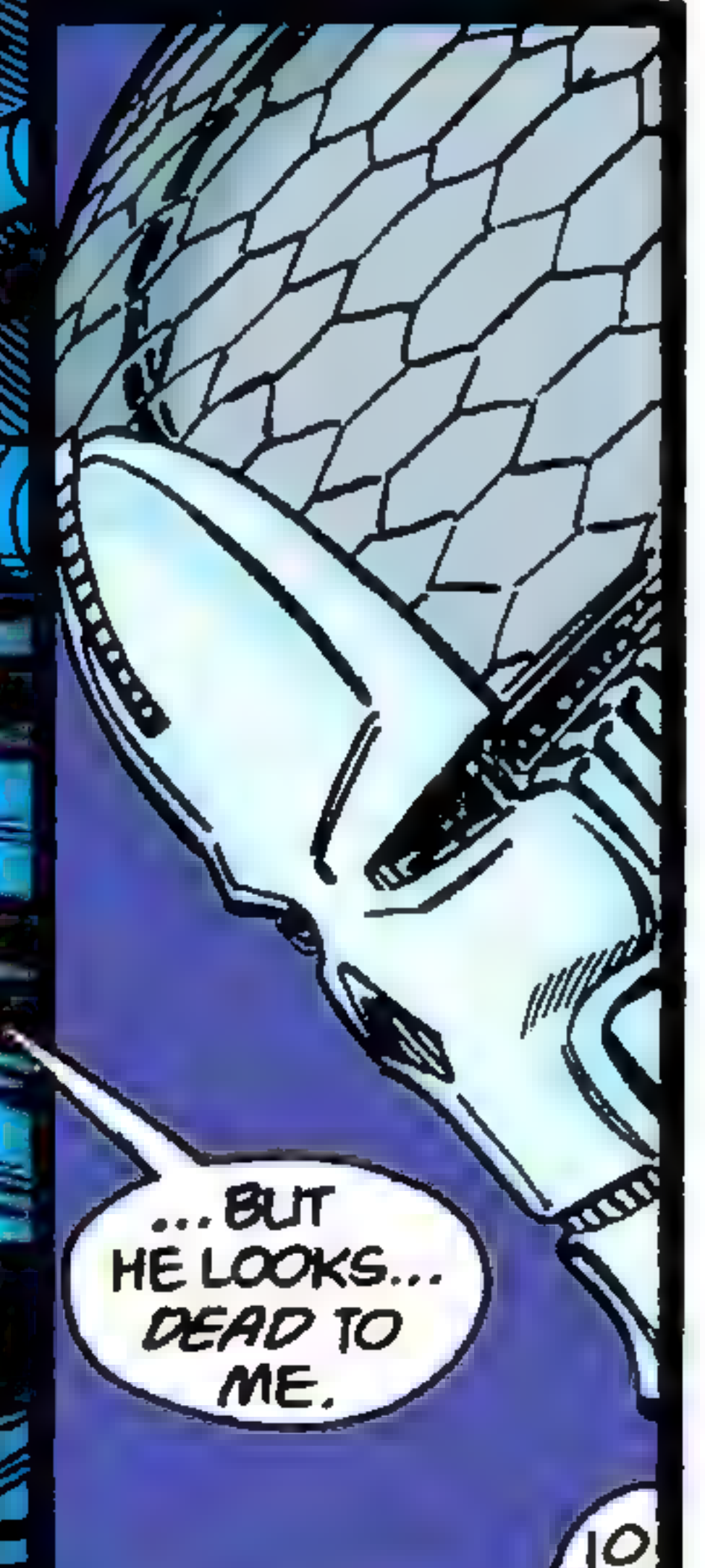
"CUT MY CALORIES"? AND YOU THINK BRAINIAC IS STRANGE?

HEY, LAY OFF MY JOKES! I'VE GOT A REP TO MAINTAIN.



YOU... SAID HE WAS... ALIVE?

I... I MAY BE... WRONG...



... BUT HE LOOKS... DEAD TO ME.

TITANS TOWER, SITUATED ON A PRIVATE ISLAND IN NEW YORK'S EAST RIVER...

IF I'D KNOWN THEY WERE COMING, I'D'VE BAKED A CAKE.

OR MAYBE A DOZEN CAKES!

SINCE WHEN DID OUR TOWER BECOME SUPER-HERO CENTRAL?

I'D SAY WE'RE ALL HERE FOR THE SAME REASONS, CHANGELING.

GREEN LANTERN'S RIGHT. THE WORLD'S CHANGED ON US...

AND, AS USUAL, WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW IT.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... I TRIED GETTING BACK TO EARTH-S, BUT I COULDN'T, IT DOESN'T EXIST.

RECKON THAT EXPLAINS WHAT HAPPENED WHEN ME AND MY FELLA FREEDOM FIGHTERS TRIED TAKIN' OFF FOR EARTH-X.

HEY, YOU GUYS KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

IT APPEARS AS IF ONLY ONE EARTH NOW EXISTS.

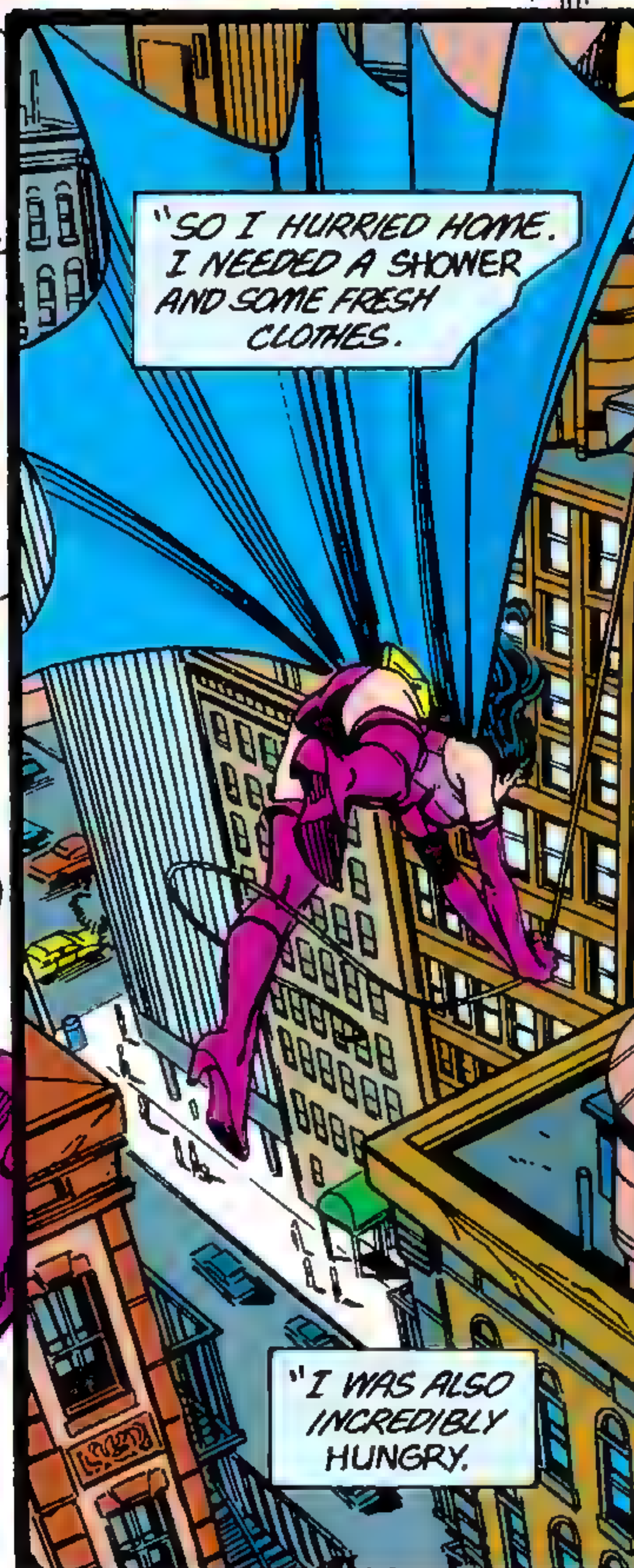
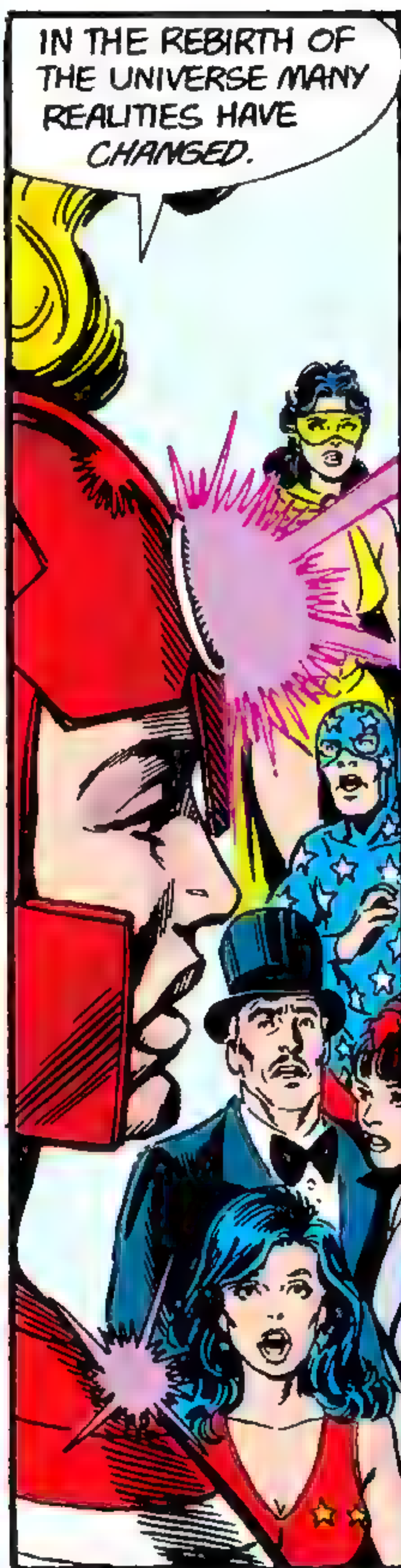
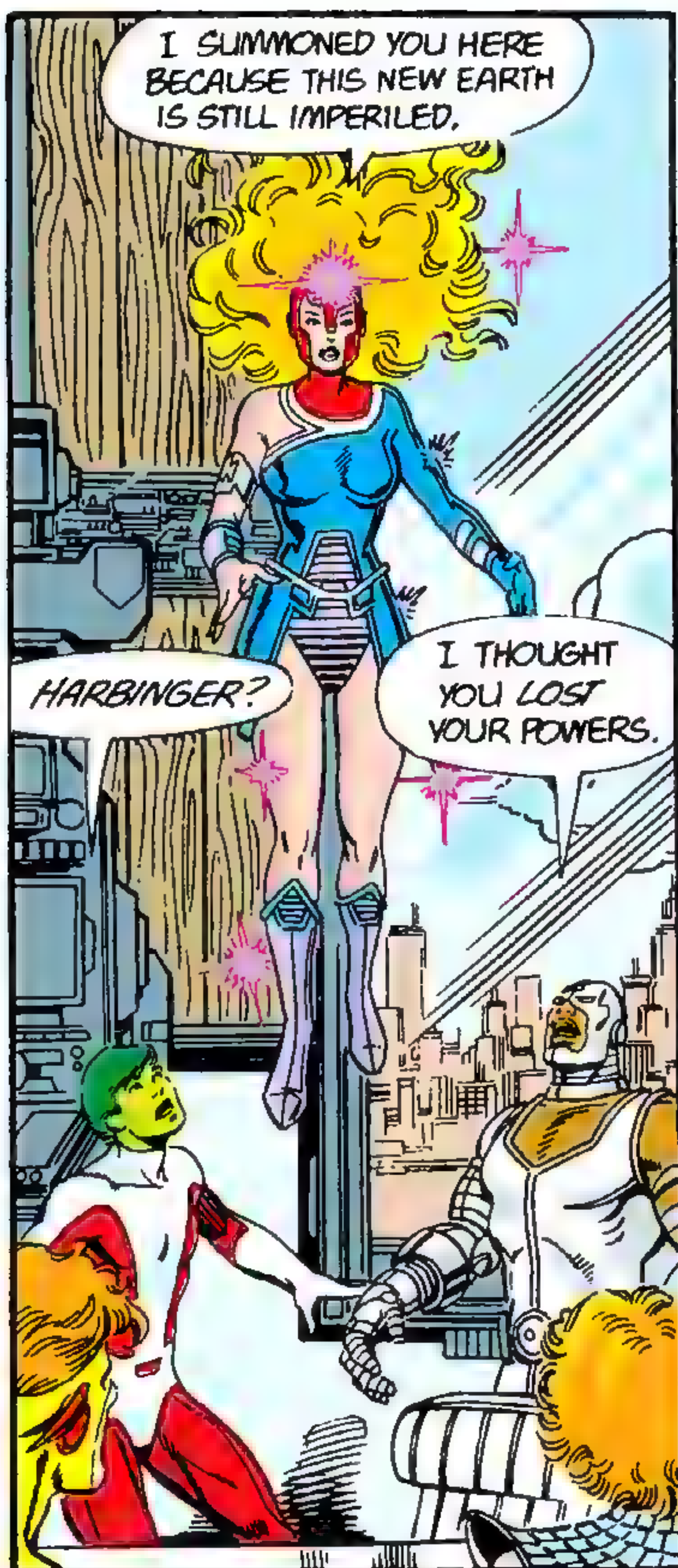
A NEW EARTH... ONE WHICH COMBINES PARTS OF ALL THE OTHERS WHICH CAME BEFORE.

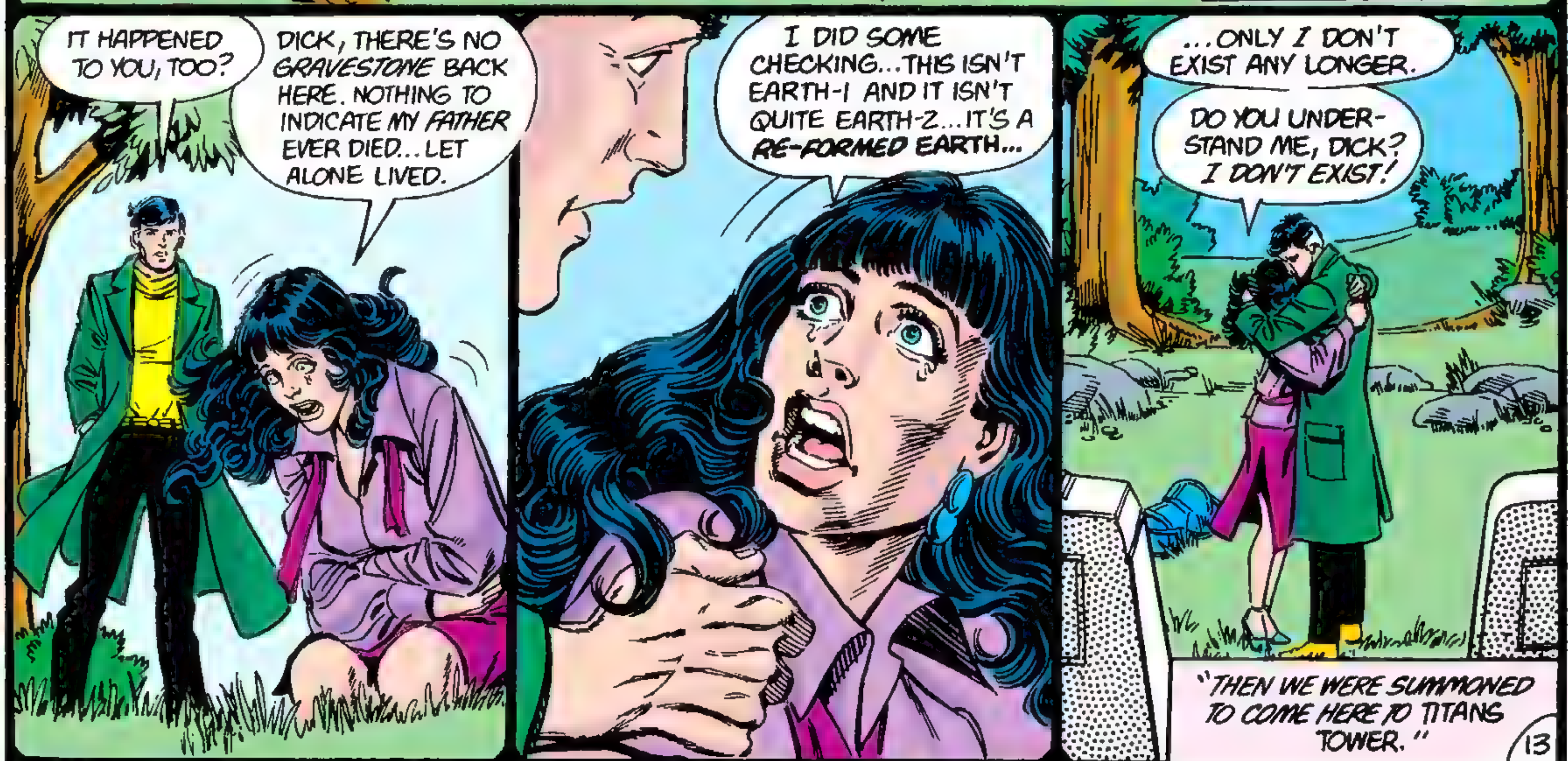
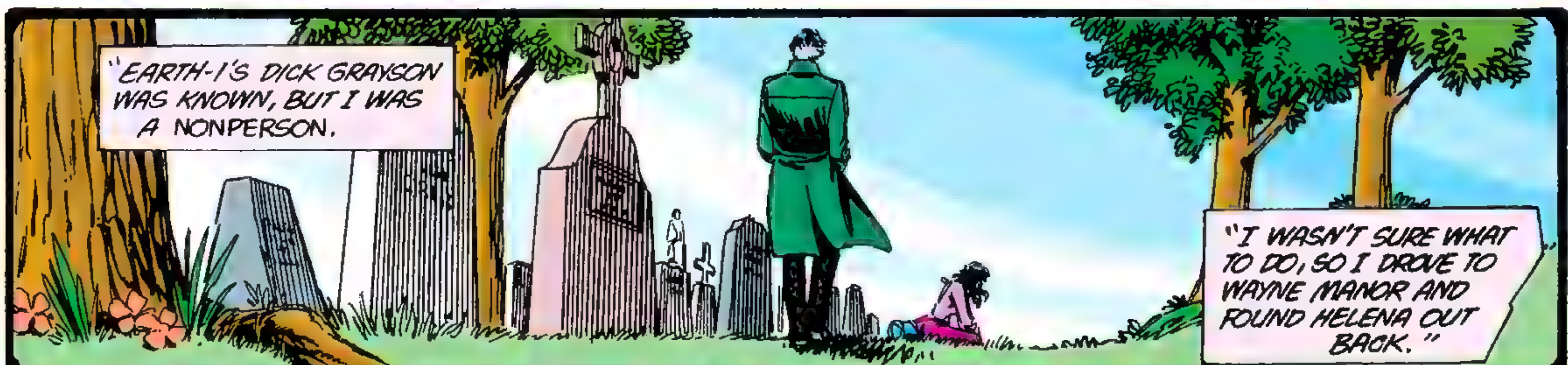
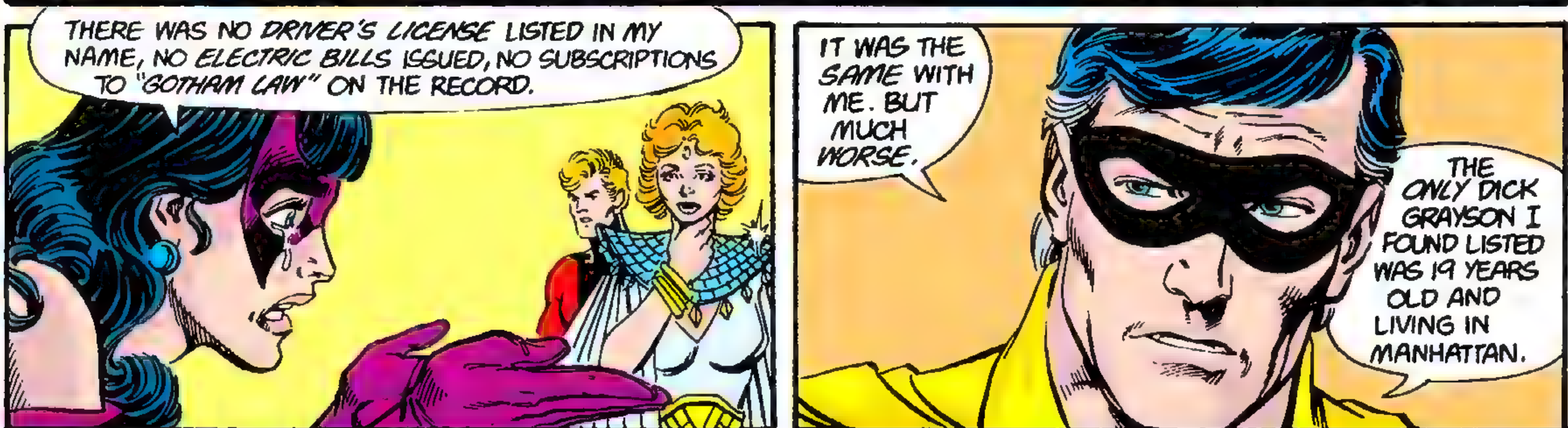
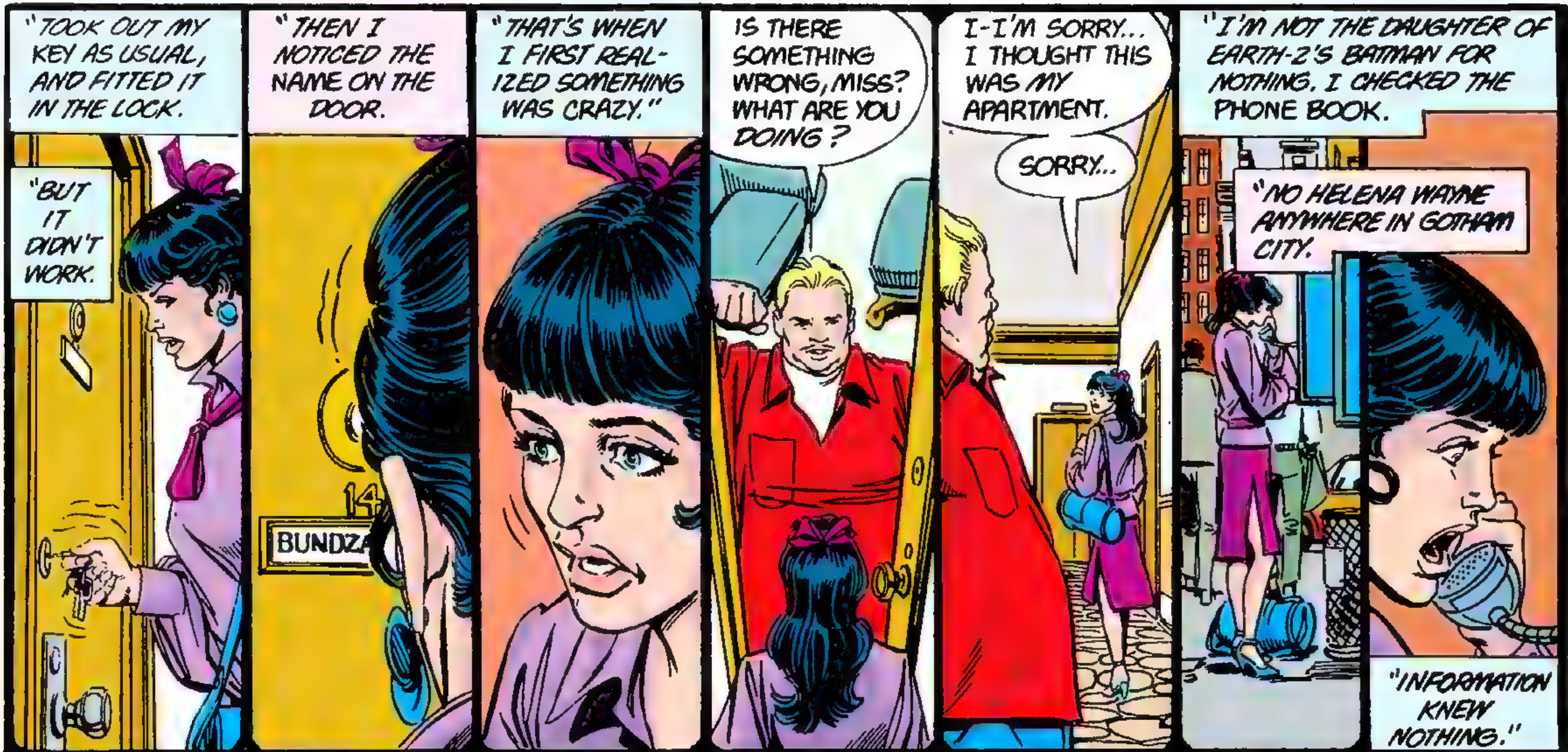
THEY'RE ALL COMING TO THAT SAME CONCLUSION.

WALLY, DID YOU ASK US ALL HERE? WHAT'S GOING ON?

NO. I BROUGHT YOU HERE. YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME.

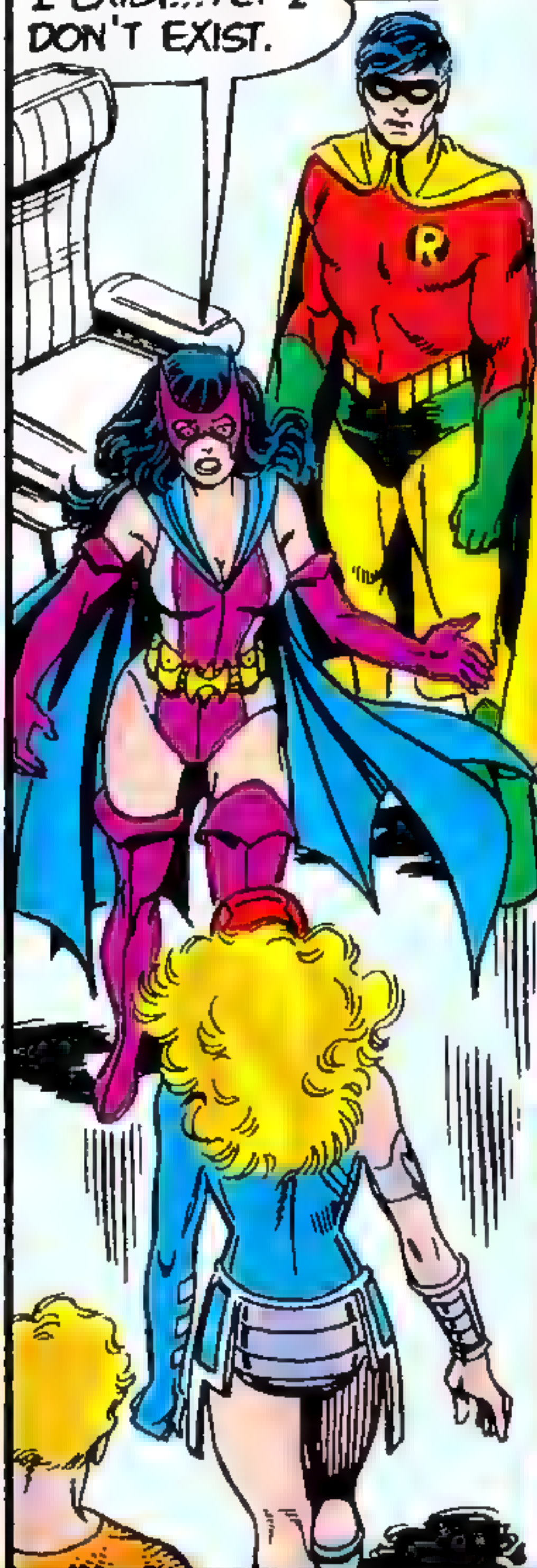
YOU?





EXPLAIN THAT TO ME, HARBINGER! WHAT HAPPENED TO MY LIFE?

I'M FLESH AND BLOOD... I EXIST...YET I DON'T EXIST.

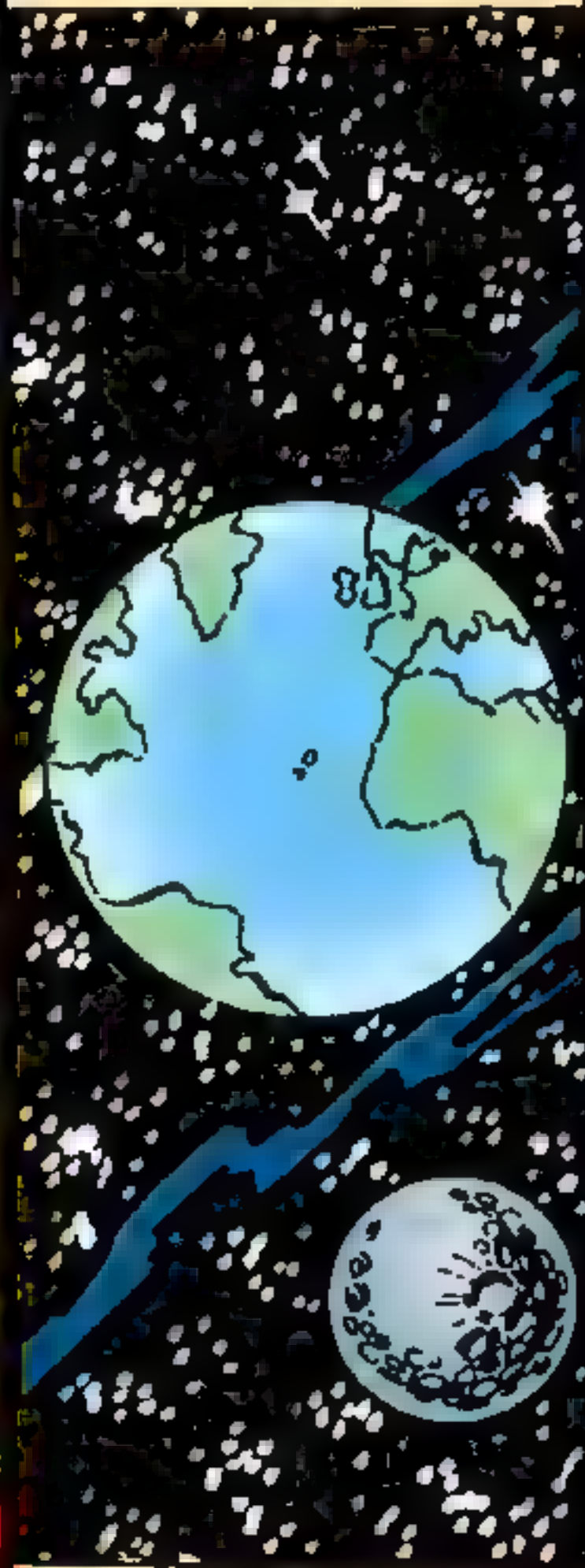


IT IS THE IRONY OF COSMIC REBIRTH. THERE ARE MANY PARADOXES, AND NOT ALL CAN BE EXPLAINED.



INDEED, NOT ALL IS KNOWN.

"AS I HAVE SAID, IN THAT GREAT BATTLE WITH THE ANTI-MONITOR, THE UNIVERSE WAS REBORN.



"REBORN FROM THE DAWN OF TIME. IN THIS NEW UNIVERSE-- THE MULTIVERSE NEVER EXISTED.

"IN THIS NEW UNIVERSE THERE NEVER WERE 1,000 EARTHS, OR EVEN FIVE. THERE WAS ONLY ONE.



"ONE EARTH WITH ONE CONSISTENT PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

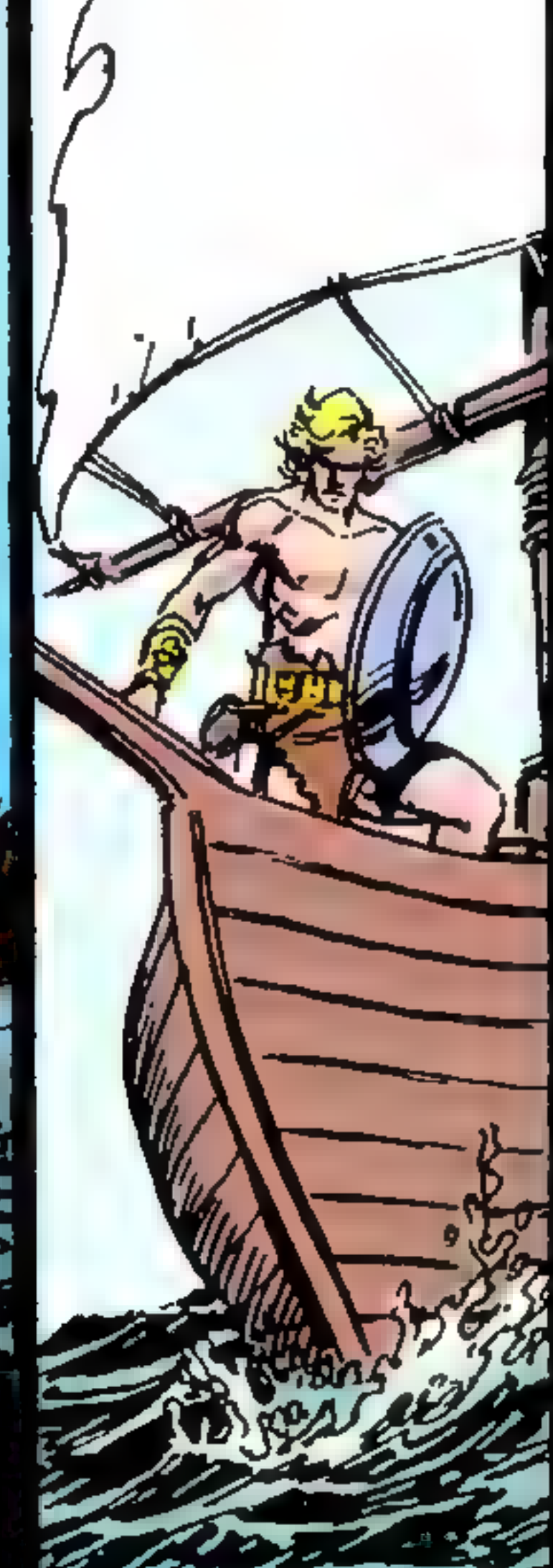
"ON OUR SINGULAR EARTH, LIFE EVOLVED AS IT ORIGINALLY DID.



"ONE CELL SPLIT. LIFE FORMED... GREW... EVOLVED.

"MAN APPEARED. HE, TOO, EVOLVED AND LEARNED...

"NEANDERTHAL GAVE WAY TO CRO-MAGNON AND THEN TO HOMO SAPIENS. CIVILIZATIONS FLOURISHED...



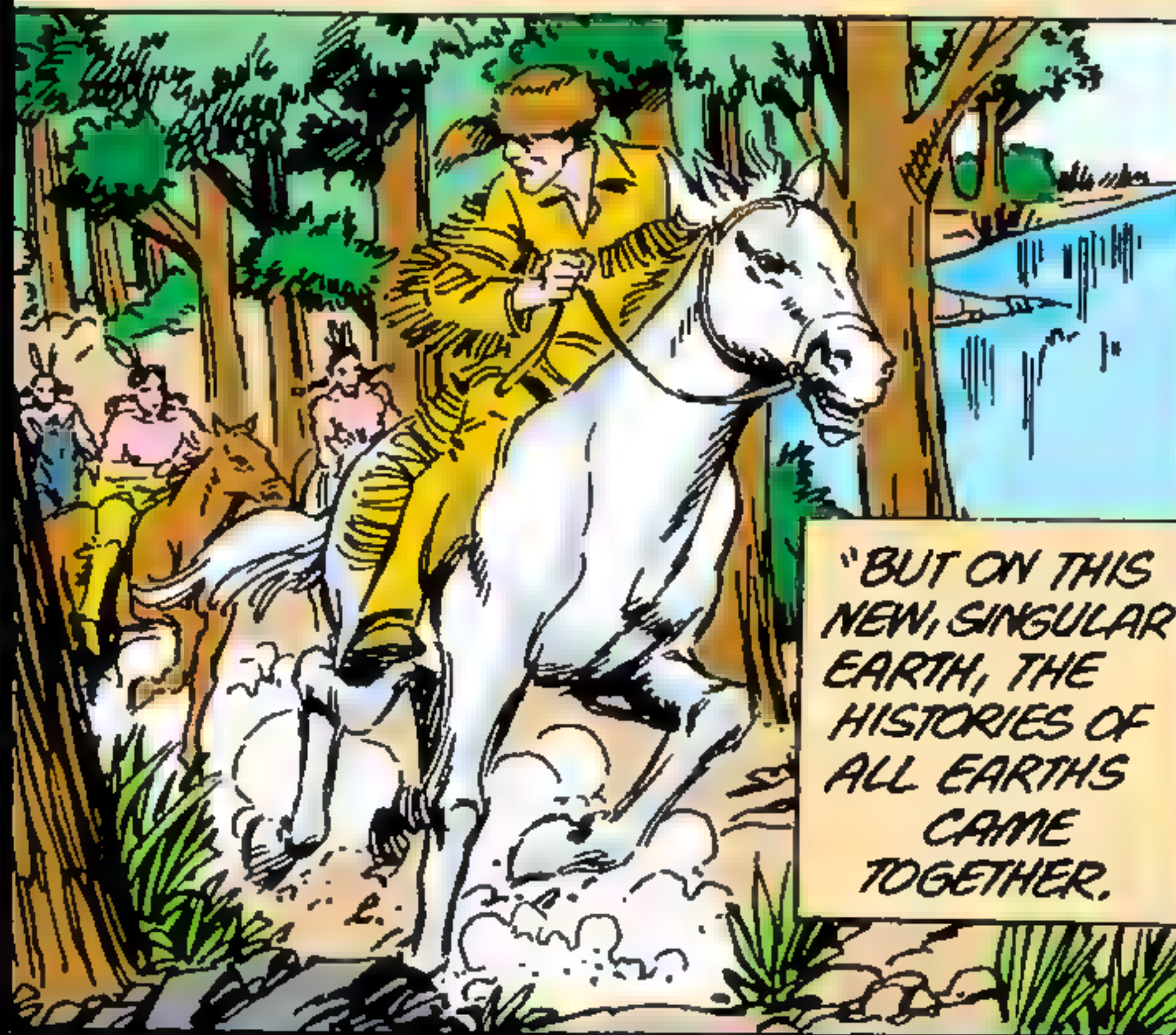
"EGYPT, CHINA, GREECE, AFRICA, ROME, THE HUNS, THE VIKINGS... THE INDIANS."

THIS WAS OUR COMMON HISTORY-- A HISTORY ALMOST ALL EARTHS SHARED.



COUNTRIES FORMED: THERE WERE WARS. REVOLUTIONS WERE FOUGHT...

"HISTORIES WERE ALTERED. EARTH-6 HAD AMERICA LOSE THEIR REVOLUTION. EARTH-X HAD AMERICA INVADE AND RULE ENGLAND.

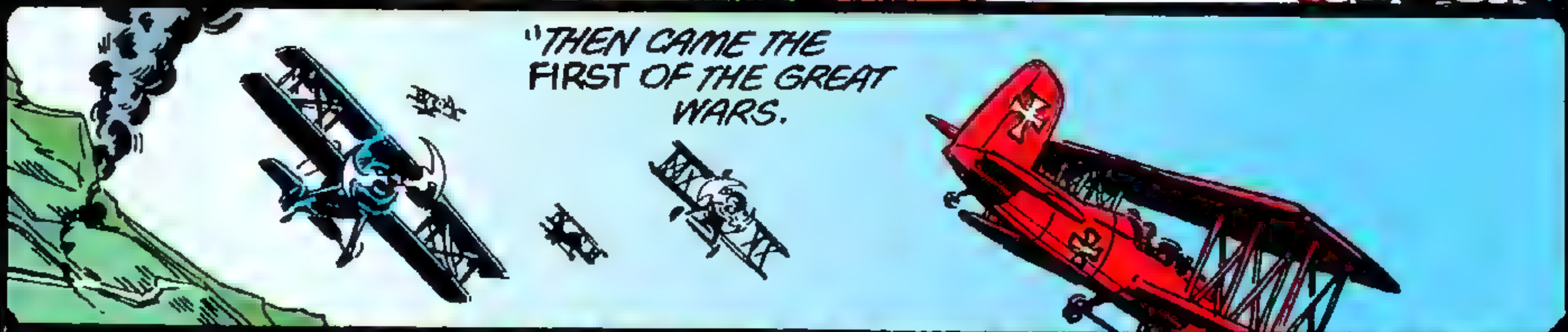


"BUT ON THIS NEW, SINGULAR EARTH, THE HISTORIES OF ALL EARTHS CAME TOGETHER.

"AMERICA WON HER INDEPENDENCE.

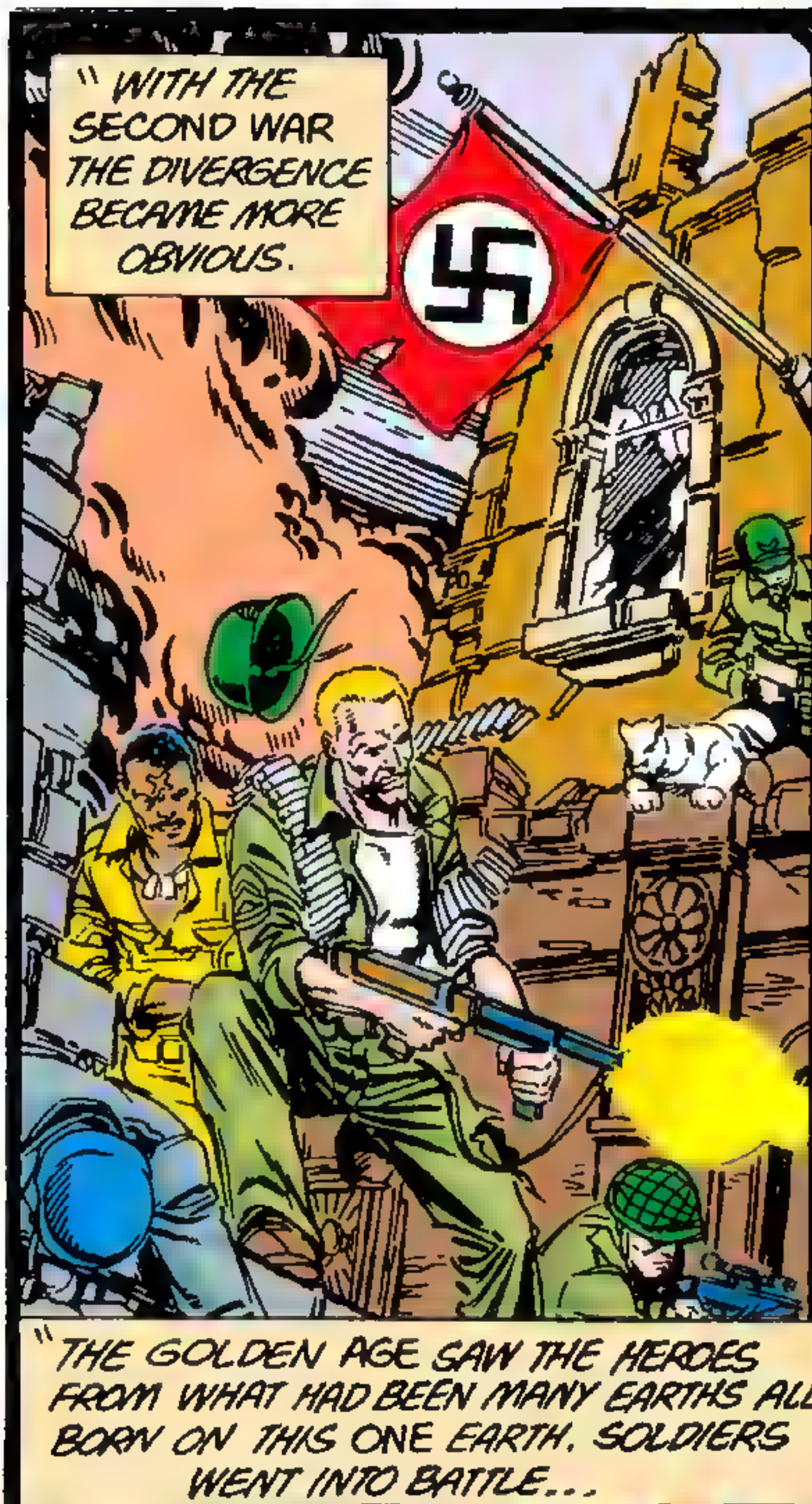


"THEN CAME THE FIRST OF THE GREAT WARS.

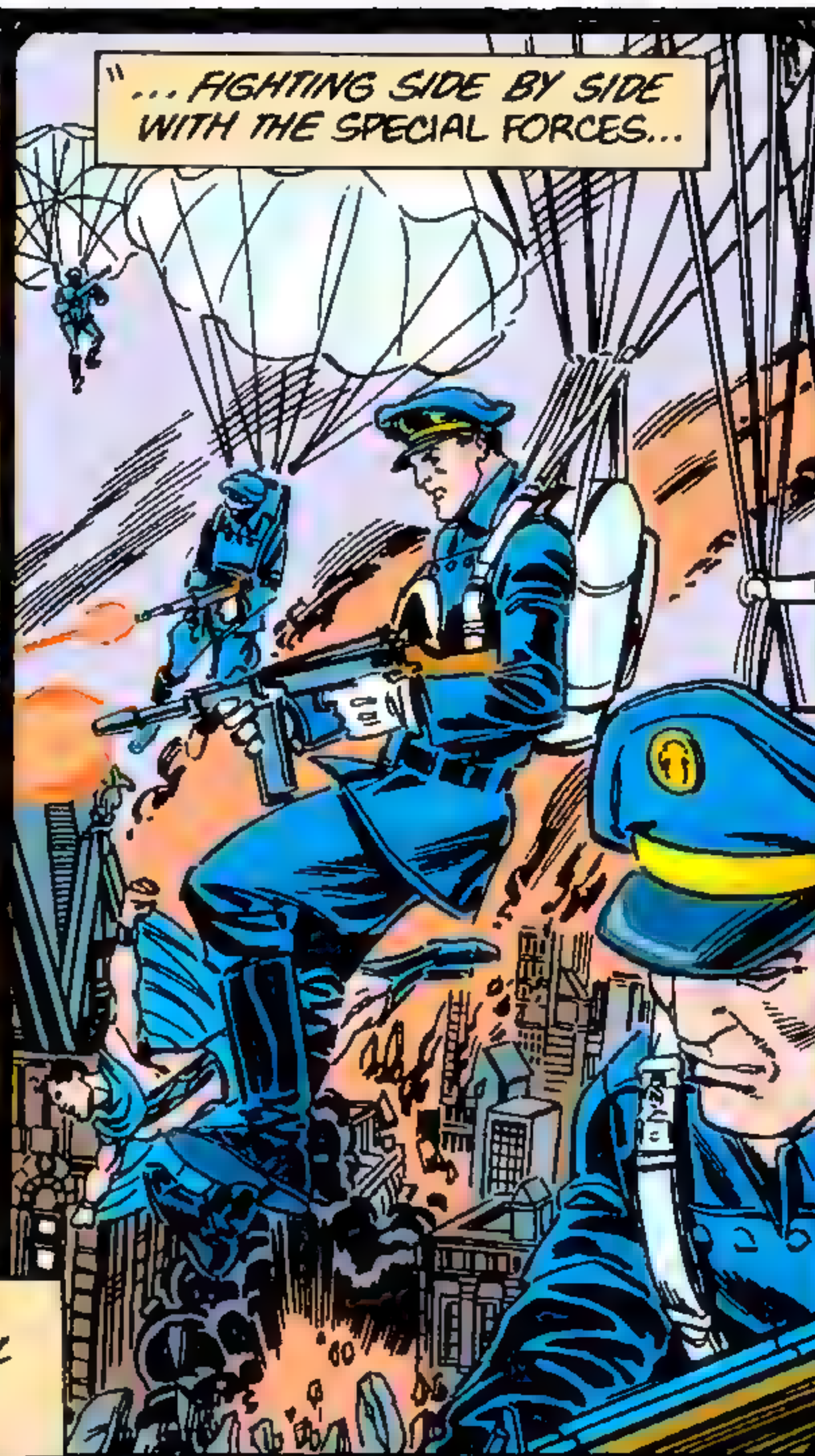


"AMERICA AND ITS ALLIES WON AS THEY DID ON MOST OF THE EARTHS.





"WITH THE SECOND WAR THE DIVERGENCE BECAME MORE OBVIOUS."



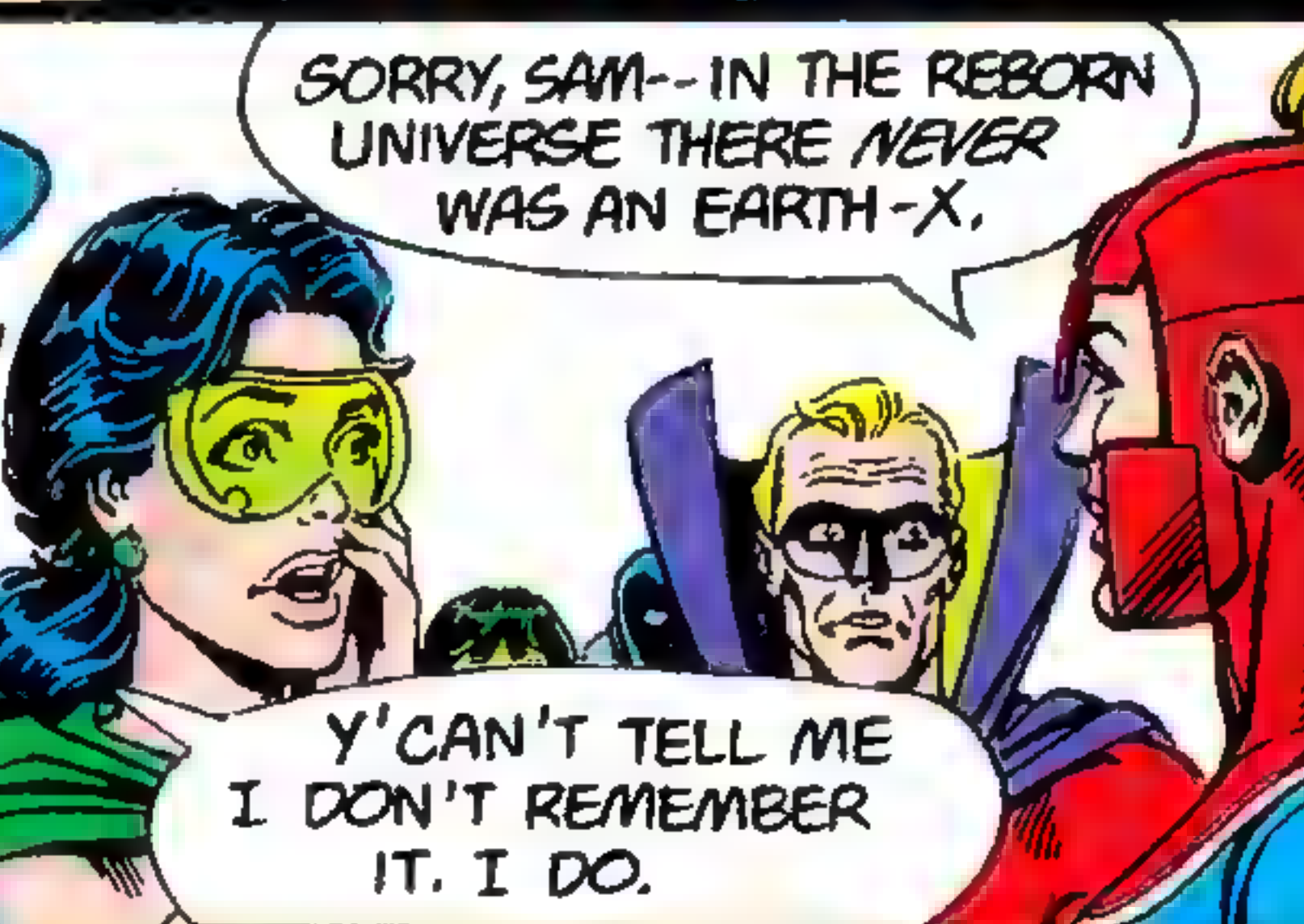
"... FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE SPECIAL FORCES..."



"... BATTLING ALONGSIDE UNCLE SAM AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS."

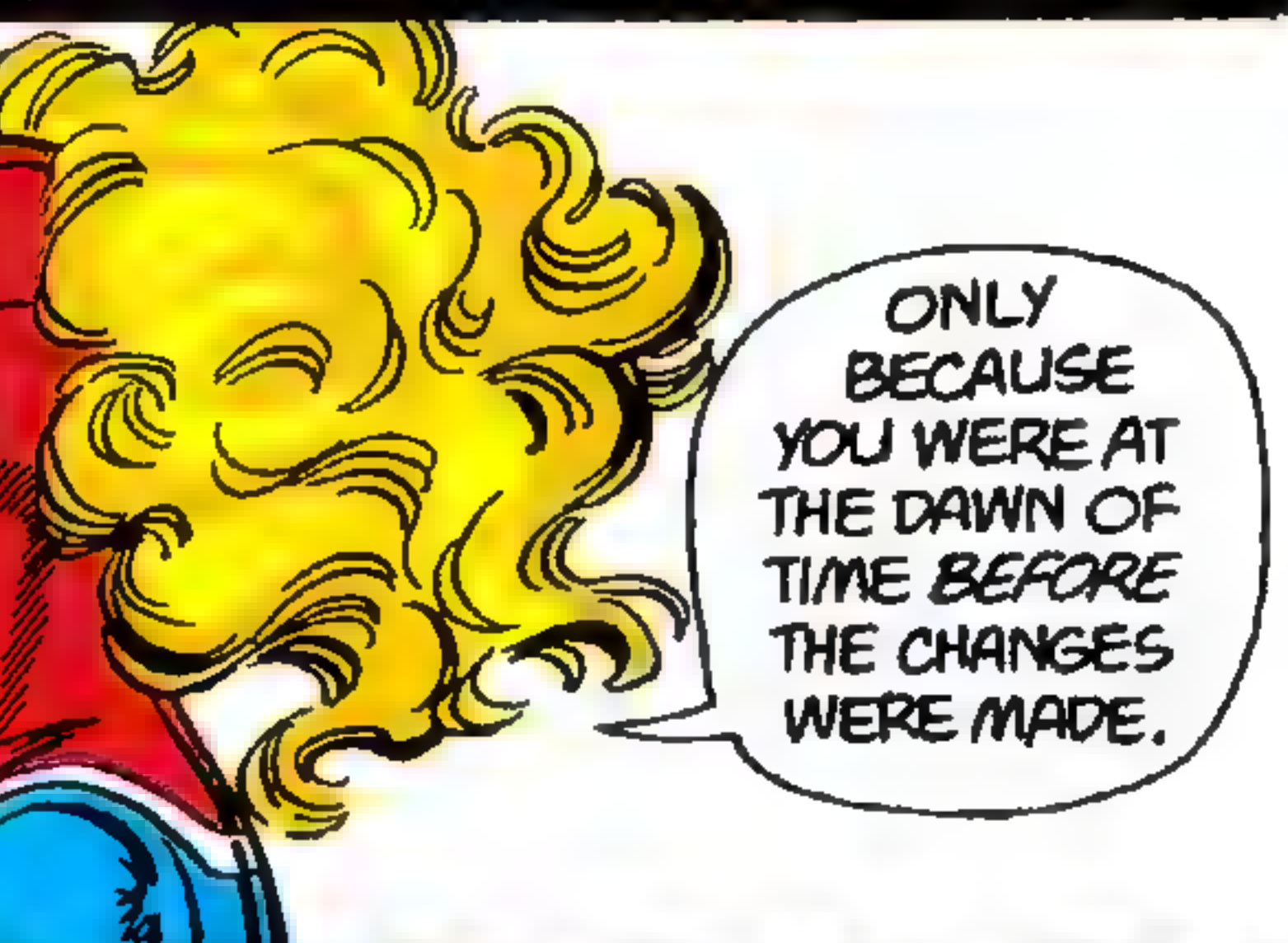


BUT WE WENT TO EARTH-X.

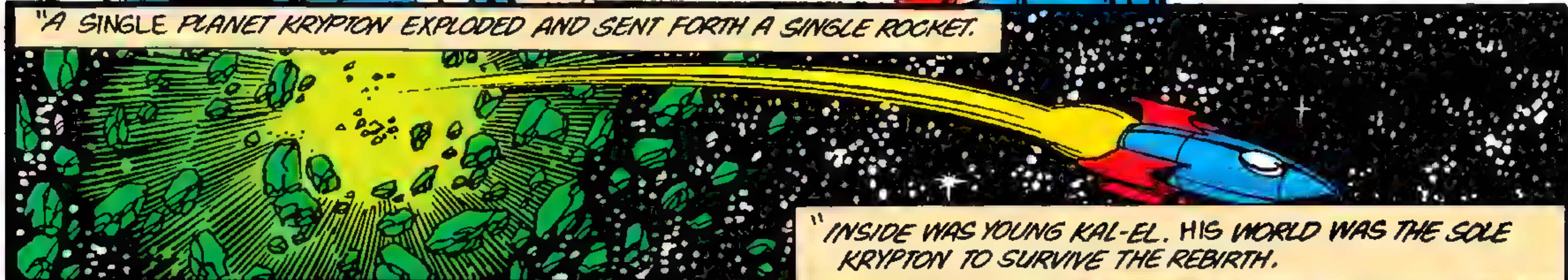


SORRY, SAM-- IN THE REBORN UNIVERSE THERE NEVER WAS AN EARTH-X.

Y'CAN'T TELL ME I DON'T REMEMBER IT. I DO.

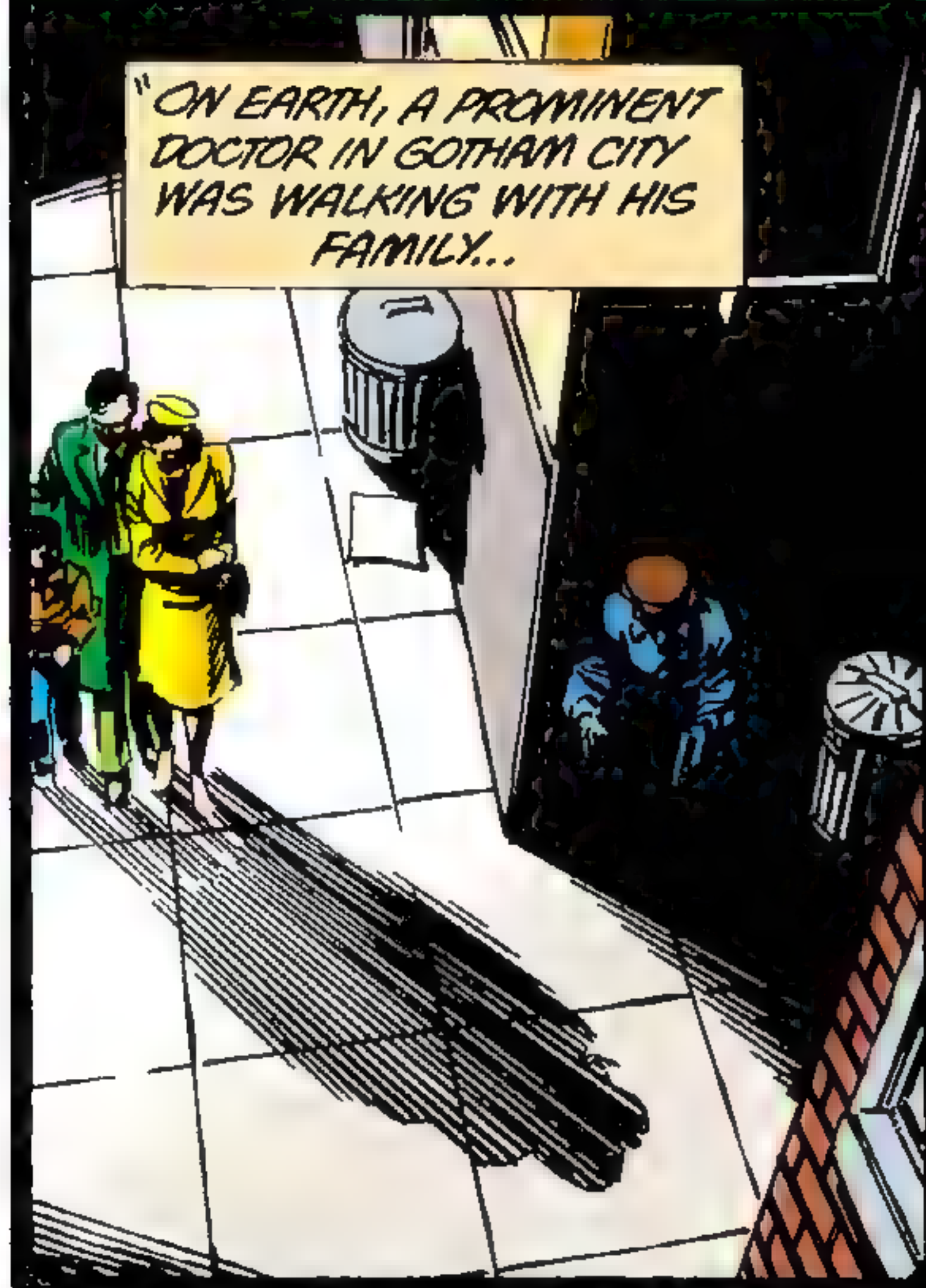


ONLY BECAUSE YOU WERE AT THE DAWN OF TIME BEFORE THE CHANGES WERE MADE.



"A SINGLE PLANET KRYPTON EXPLODED AND SENT FORTH A SINGLE ROCKET."

"INSIDE WAS YOUNG KAL-EL. HIS WORLD WAS THE SOLE KRYPTON TO SURVIVE THE REBIRTH."



"ON EARTH, A PROMINENT DOCTOR IN GOTHAM CITY WAS WALKING WITH HIS FAMILY..."



"...WHEN OUT OF THE DARK SHADOWS..."

"... CAME DEATH."



"ON THAT NIGHT THE BATMAN WAS BORN."

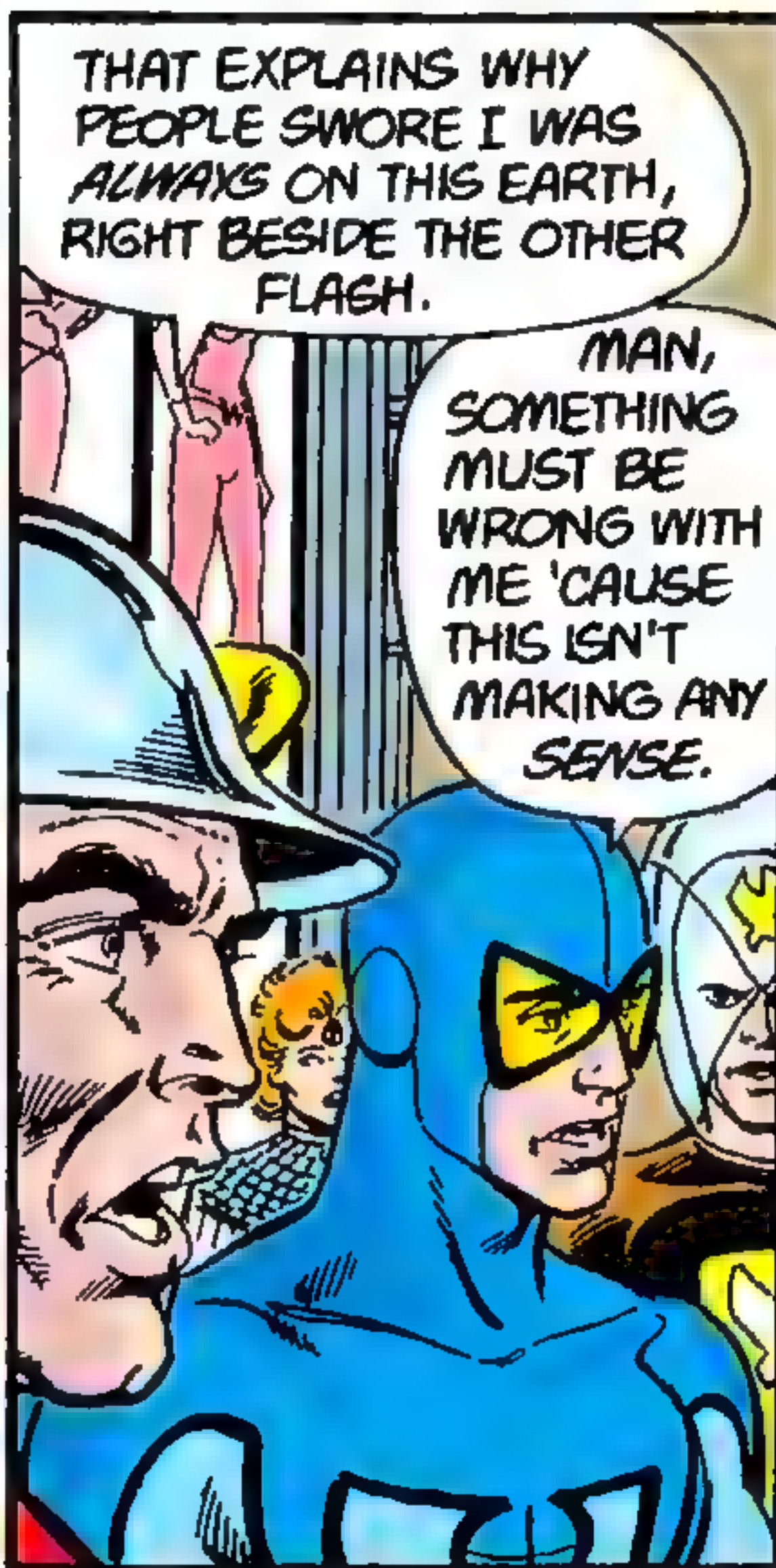
"ONE BATMAN... ONLY ONE."



THEN MY BATMAN NEVER WAS...

MY FATHER NEVER EXISTED?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT. HOW COULD I BE?



THAT EXPLAINS WHY PEOPLE SWORE I WAS ALWAYS ON THIS EARTH, RIGHT BESIDE THE OTHER FLASH.

MAN, SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG WITH ME 'CAUSE THIS ISN'T MAKING ANY SENSE.



AND I WAS BORN HERE, TOO? I GUESS I UNDERSTAND ... BUT IT SEEMS SO IMPOSSIBLE.



NO, IT ISN'T. AND I UNDERSTAND IT... ALL TOO WELL.

SOME THINGS FROM EACH WORLD SURVIVED. SOME THINGS DIDN'T. MY KRYPTON NEVER WAS...



...AND THOUGH THAT MEANS I SHOULDN'T EXIST... I DO-- ONLY THROUGH SOME FLUKE.

BUT MY WIFE-- MY LOIS-- SHE'S GONE! NEVER WAS...

NO!!

THIS IS UNFAIR! WHY WAS I KEPT ALIVE WHEN LOIS VANISHED? WHY DID I GO BACK IN TIME INSTEAD OF STAYING HERE...

... INSTEAD OF ENTERING OBLIVION WITH MY WIFE?



OHMIGOD-- HE'S GOING CRAZY!

I'LL STOP HIM.



LISTEN... WE MUST BRING HIM BACK. THERE ARE THINGS HE DOES NOT KNOW.

NO PROBLEM. KAL STUCK BY ME WHEN I NEEDED HIM.



I'LL DO ANYTHING TO HELP HIM NOW.

THERE ARE PLACES UNKNOWN TO MORTAL MEN... PLACES THAT CAN EXIST ONLY IN SHADOW...

AND ONLY THOSE WHO THRIVE IN THE DARK CAN TREAD THESE GRIM PATHWAYS.

PHANTOM STRANGER, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SPECTRE?

HE FOUGHT THE BATTLE, AND HE SUFFERED. I FEAR, DEAD-MAN, THAT THE POWER HE POSSESSES...

...THE VERY POWER WE NEED TO SAVE OUR UNIVERSE--IS TO BE DENIED US.

GREAT! JUST GREAT. HE'S GOTTA SLEEP THINGS OFF WHILE THE WHOLE WORLD'S LITERALLY GOING TO BLAZES.

C'MON, CORRIGAN-- WAKE UP, MAN. WE NEED YOU!

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA...

Raley INN

WELCOME DETECTIVE CONVENTION
FREE BUFFET
FRI: 11-2

YAGHHH

WHAT IN TH' NAME O' HEAVEN?

THE CLEANING LADY FAINTED.

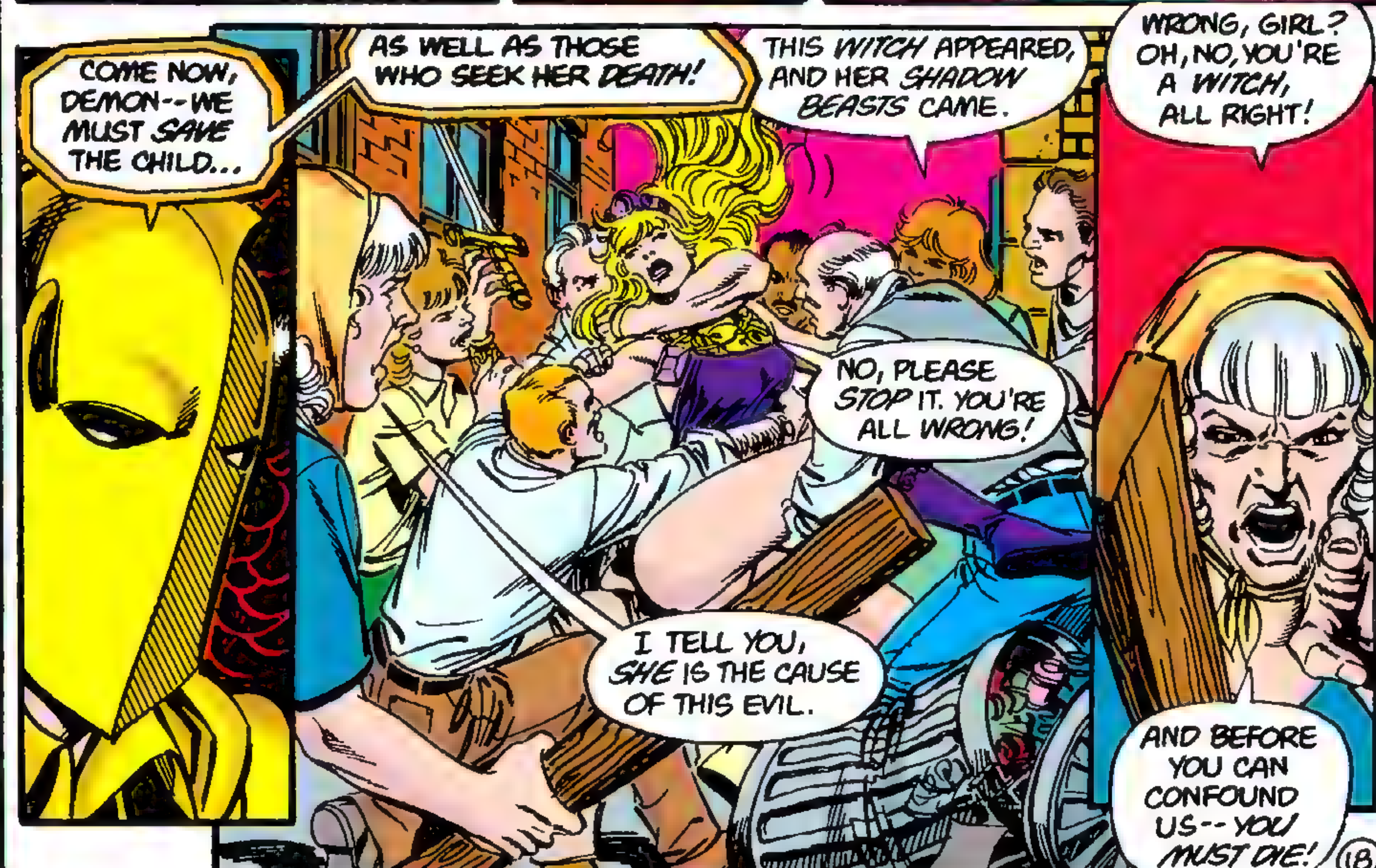
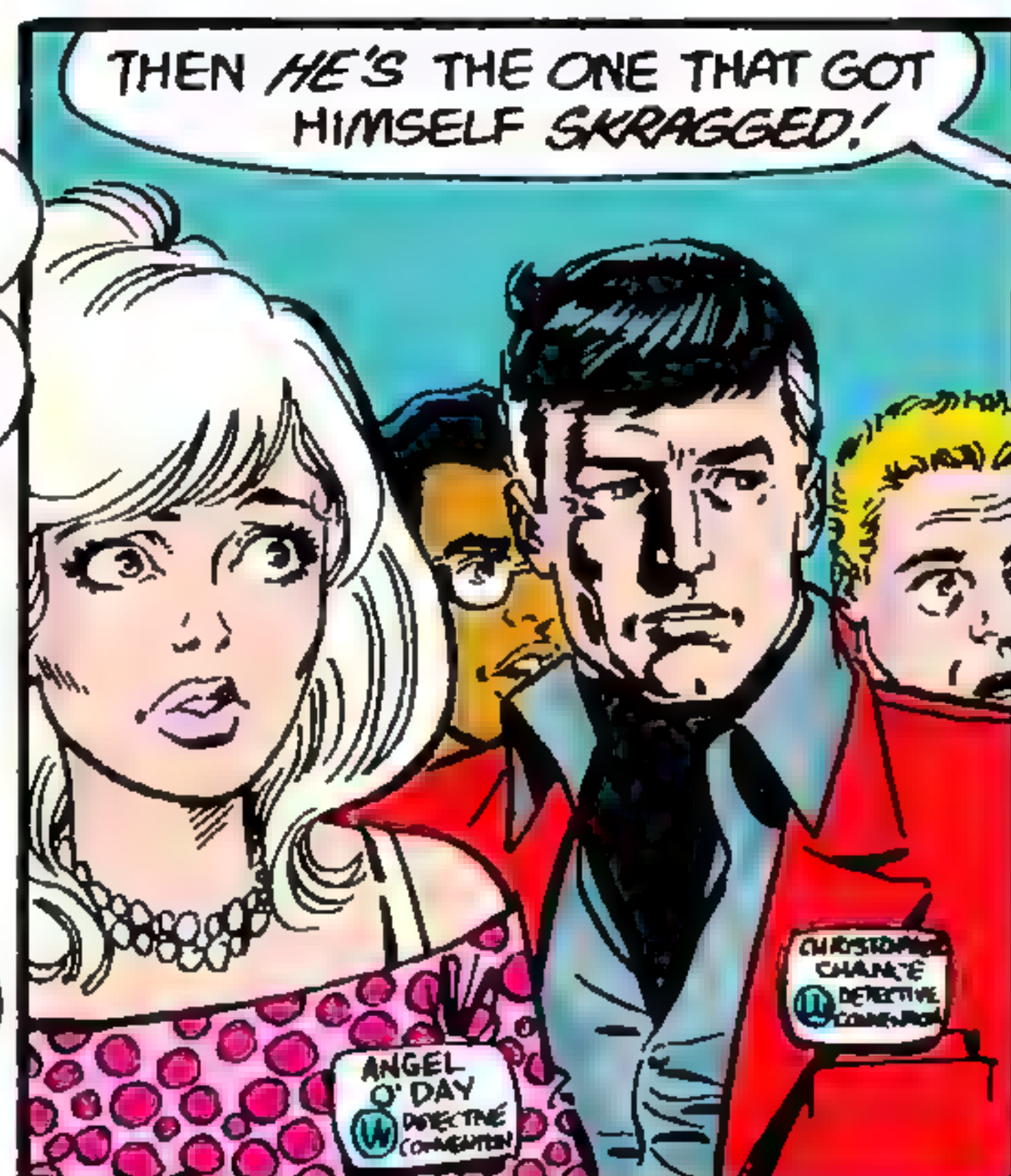
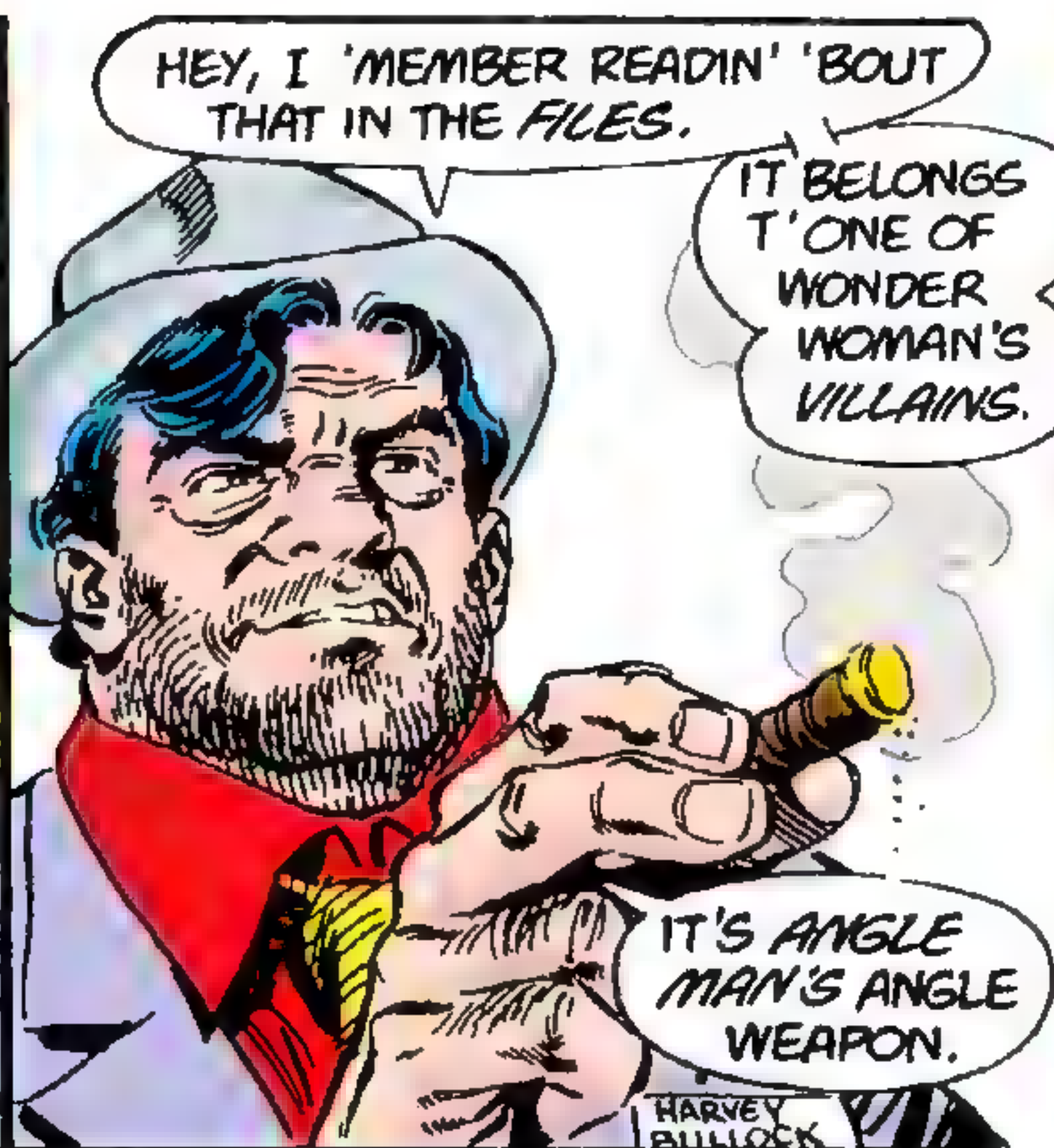
TAKE HER SOMEWHERE SAFE, BULLOCK. HMM, THIS ROOM WAS LOCKED FROM INSIDE WHEN IT EXPLODED. THERE'S NO OTHER WAY IN OR OUT.

HOW WAS IT DONE? HOW DID THE KILLER ESCAPE? AND WHO IS THE KILLER?

SEEMS T'ME, MS. THUNDER-- THIS IS THE BEGINNIN' OF "THE MURDER GAME."

NO, MR. DOUBLE. THIS ISN'T ANY DETECTIVE'S GAME. THAT'S A REAL CORPSE IN THIS SMOKE.

OBTAINING SOMEONE IS LYING DEAD IN ALL THAT SMOKE.





STOP! STOP NOW
OR AN INNOCENT LIFE
WILL BE TAKEN!

WHO
IN--?



LISTEN TO ME. I AM
DR. OCCULT..

... AND,
BY THE
MYSTIC
SYMBOL
OF THE
SEVEN, I
TELL YOU
THE GIRL
IS INNOCENT.



YOU WILL CALM
YOURSELF... YOU
WILL CEASE
THIS DISPLAY
OF MAD-
NESS.



AND WITHOUT
KNOWING OF
OCCULT'S HYPNOTIC
POWERS...

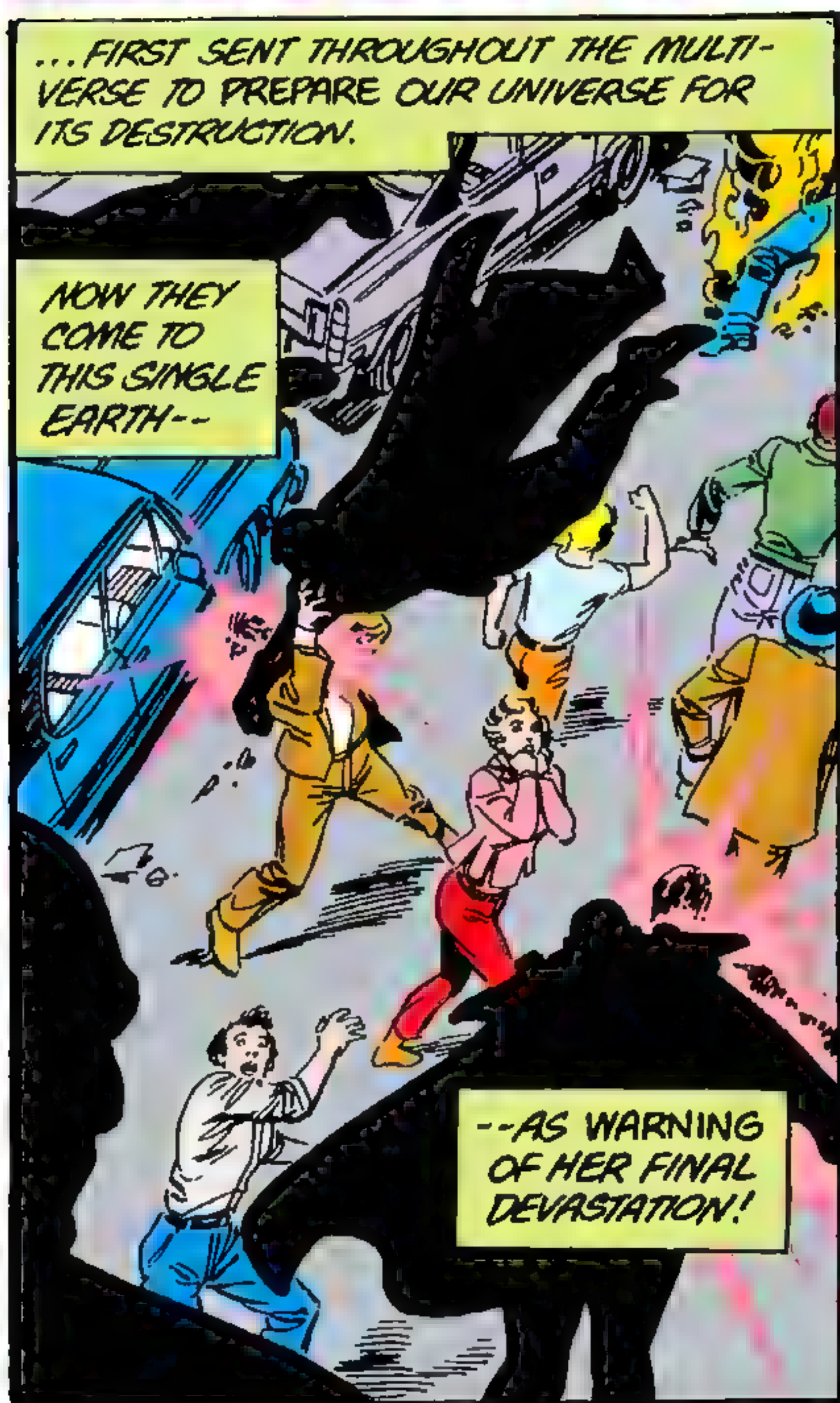
...THEY ARE
QUIET.

THEY'RE
COMING
AGAIN!
LOOK!



THE SHADOW DEMONS...

... CREATED IN THE ANTI-
MATTER UNIVERSE...



... FIRST SENT THROUGHOUT THE MULTI-
VERSE TO PREPARE OUR UNIVERSE FOR
ITS DESTRUCTION.

NOW THEY
COME TO
THIS SINGLE
EARTH--

--AS WARNING
OF HER FINAL
DEVASTATION!



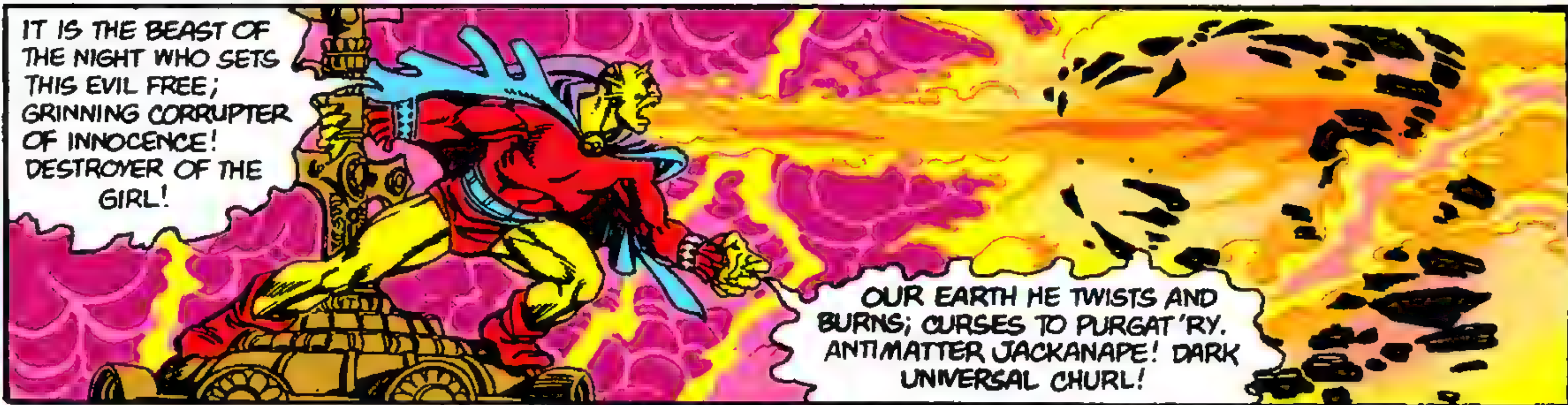
WHATEVER
THEY TOUCH,
THEY KILL.

WHAT CAN I
DO TO STOP
THEM?

THIS ISN'T
GEMWORLD... I
DON'T KNOW HOW
POWERFUL THEY--

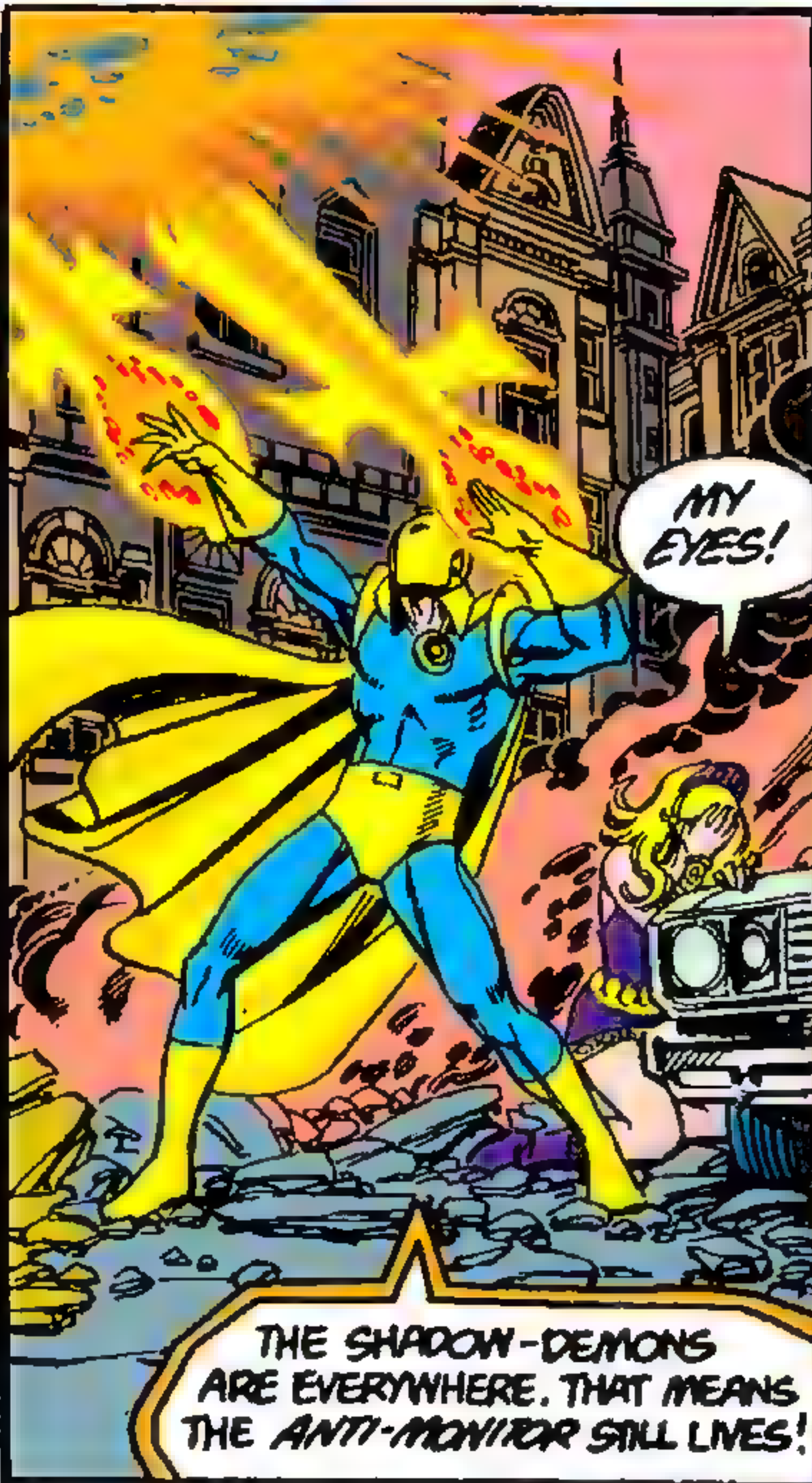


AAGHHHHH



IT IS THE BEAST OF THE NIGHT WHO SETS THIS EVIL FREE; GRINNING CORRUPTER OF INNOCENCE! DESTROYER OF THE GIRL!

OUR EARTH HE TWISTS AND BURNS; CURSES TO PURGAT'RY. ANTIMATTER JACKANAPE! DARK UNIVERSAL CHURL!



MY EYES!

THE SHADOW-DEMONS ARE EVERYWHERE. THAT MEANS THE ANTI-MONITOR STILL LIVES!



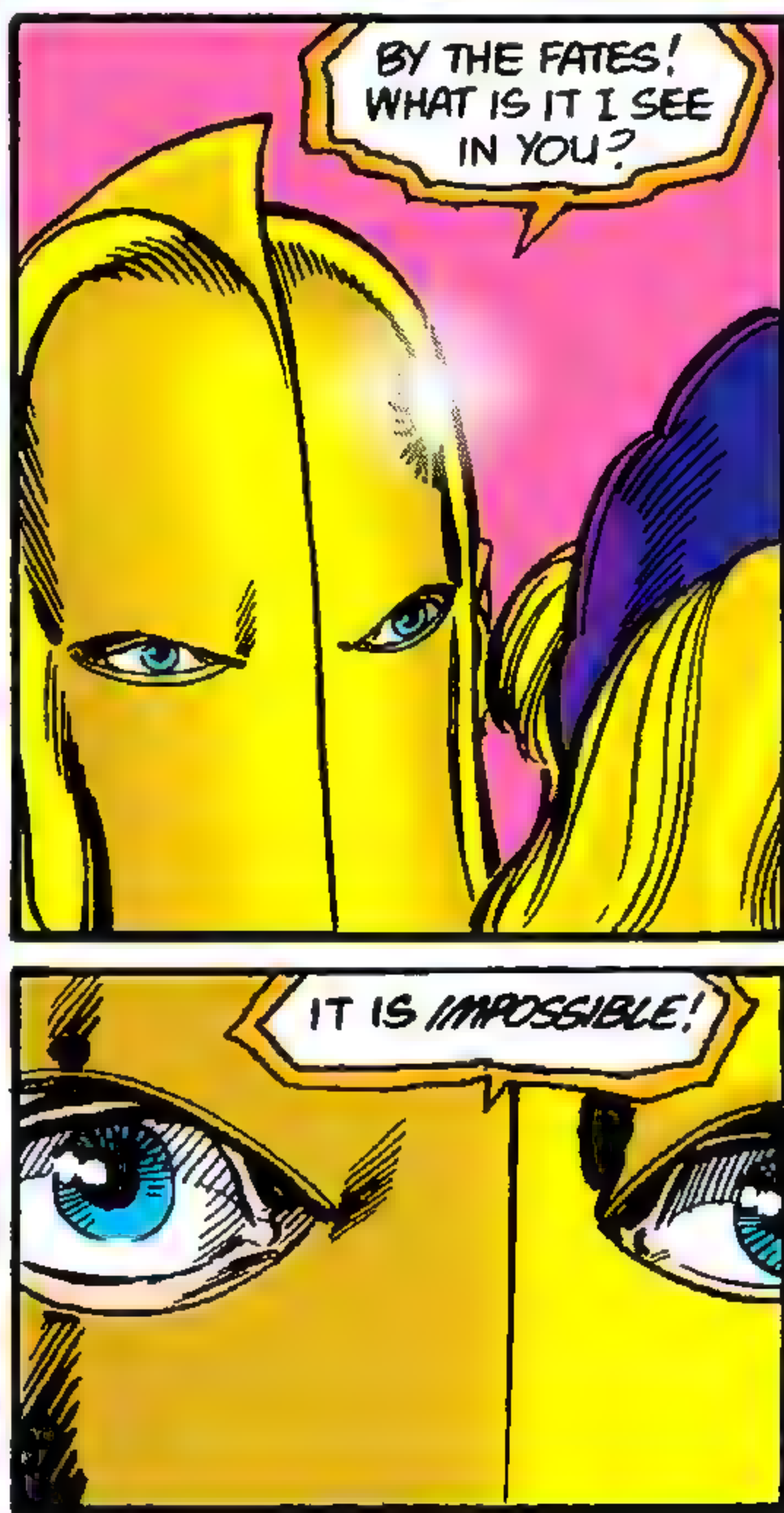
I--I CAN'T SEE... I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!

I--I'M BLIND!



HE-HELP ME, PLEASE. DO YOU HEAR ME? I'M BLIND.

THE DEMONS DESTROYED YOUR OPTIC NERVES... THEY--



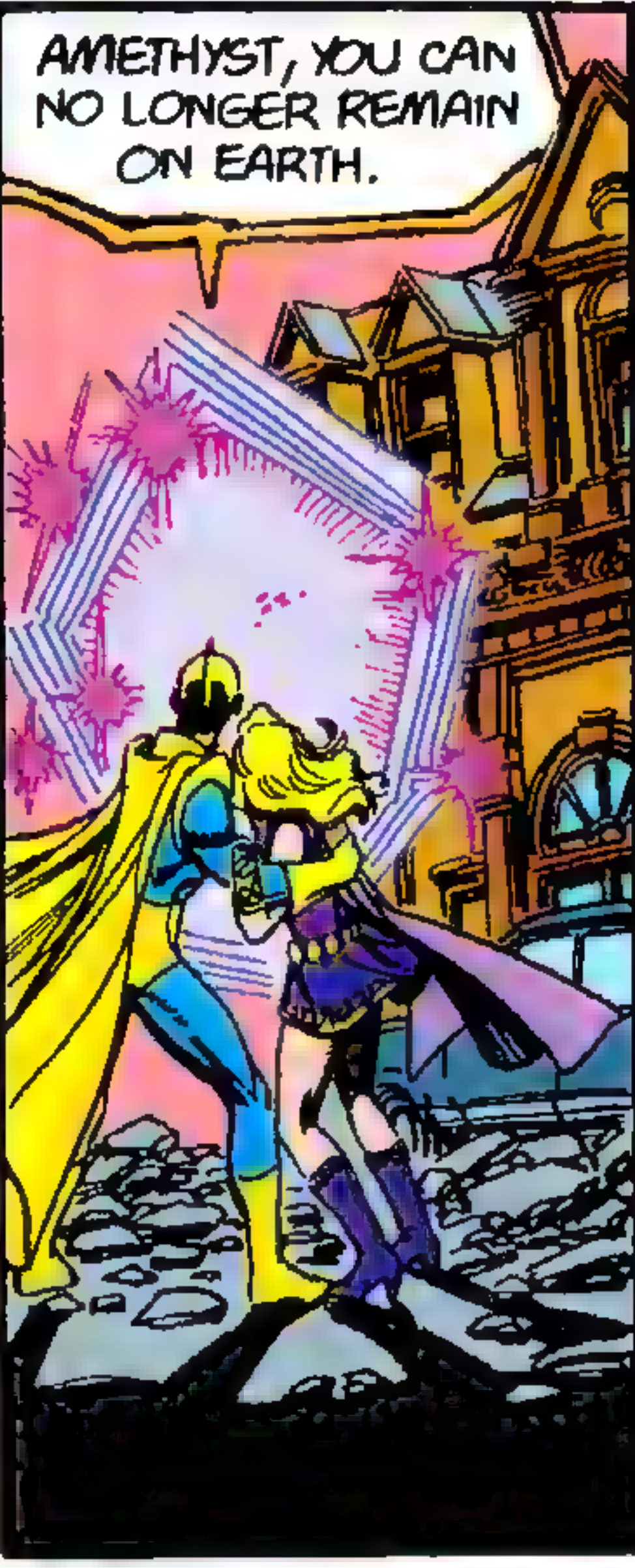
BY THE FATES! WHAT IS IT I SEE IN YOU?

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!

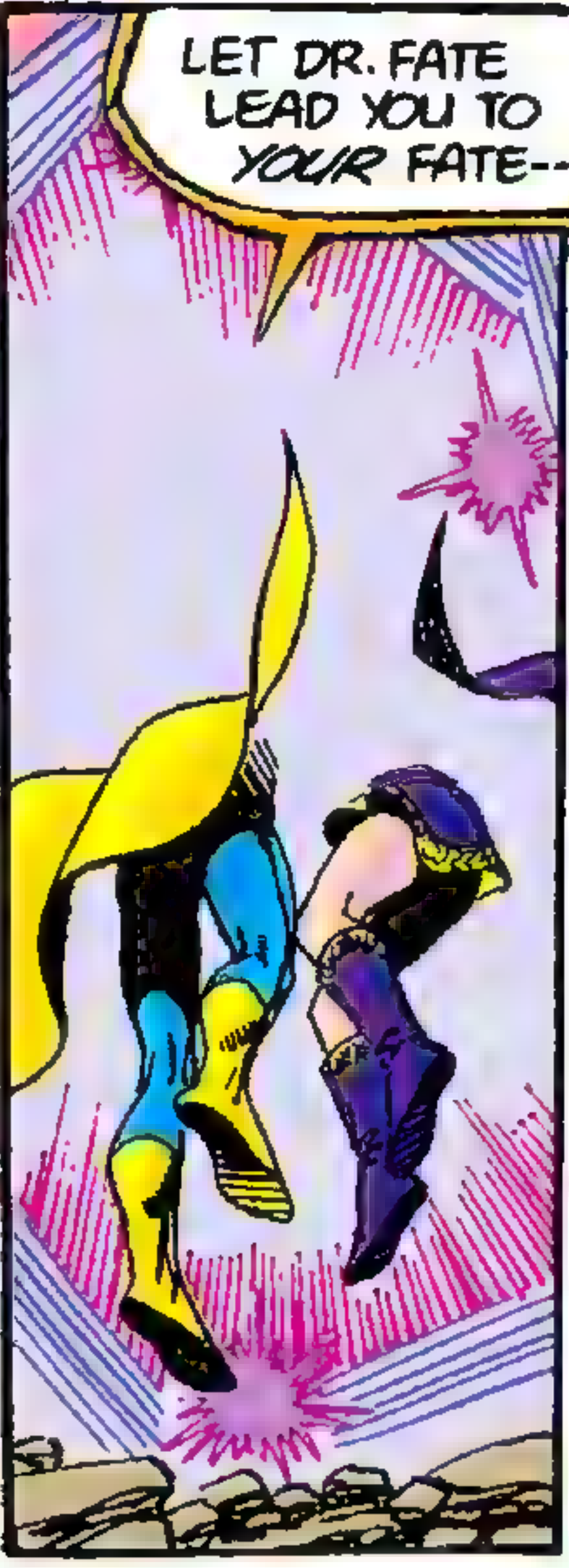


BEHOLD THE SHADOWS OF NIGHT, THEIR EVIL DONE TAKE WINGLESS FLIGHT.

WHAT ARE THEY?



AMETHYST, YOU CAN NO LONGER REMAIN ON EARTH.



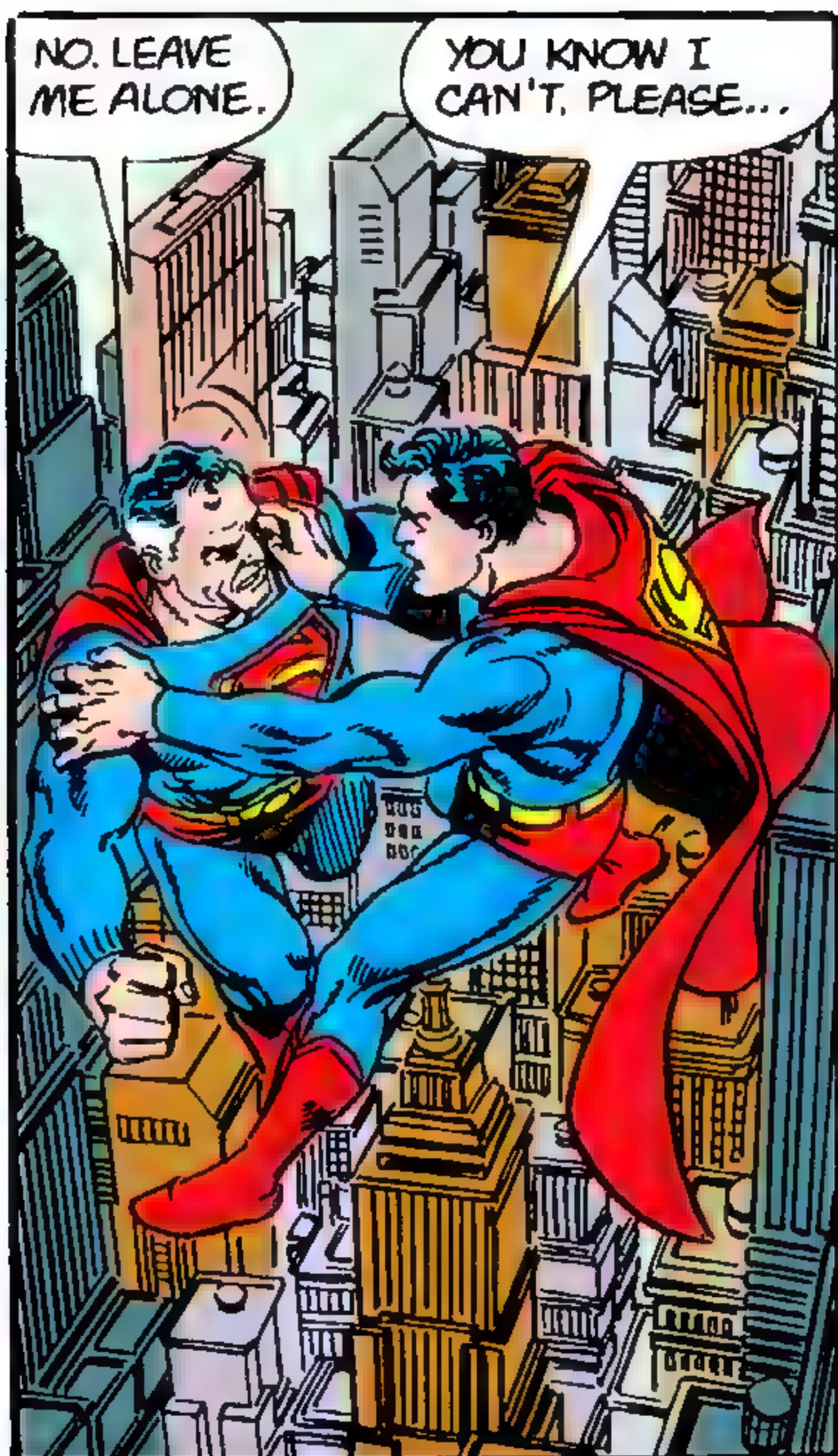
LET DR. FATE LEAD YOU TO YOUR FATE--

IT AWAITS YOU IN GEMWORLD!

GONE! IT IS DONE! BUT THE EVIL HAS JUST BEGUN!

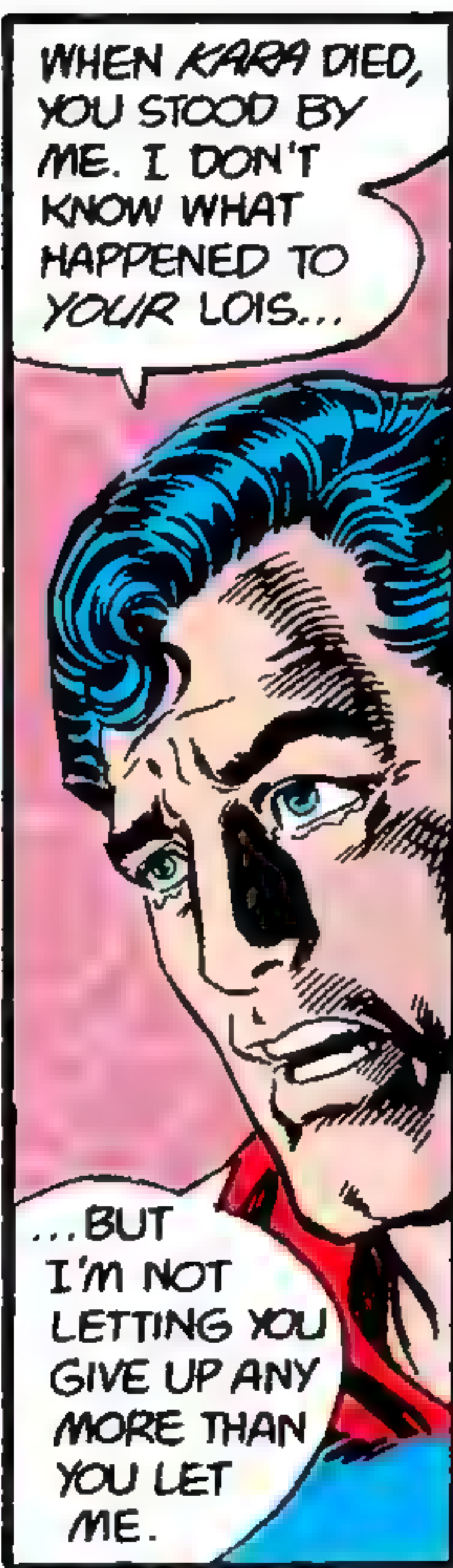


KAL-L-- STOP! YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME!



NO. LEAVE ME ALONE.

YOU KNOW I CAN'T, PLEASE...



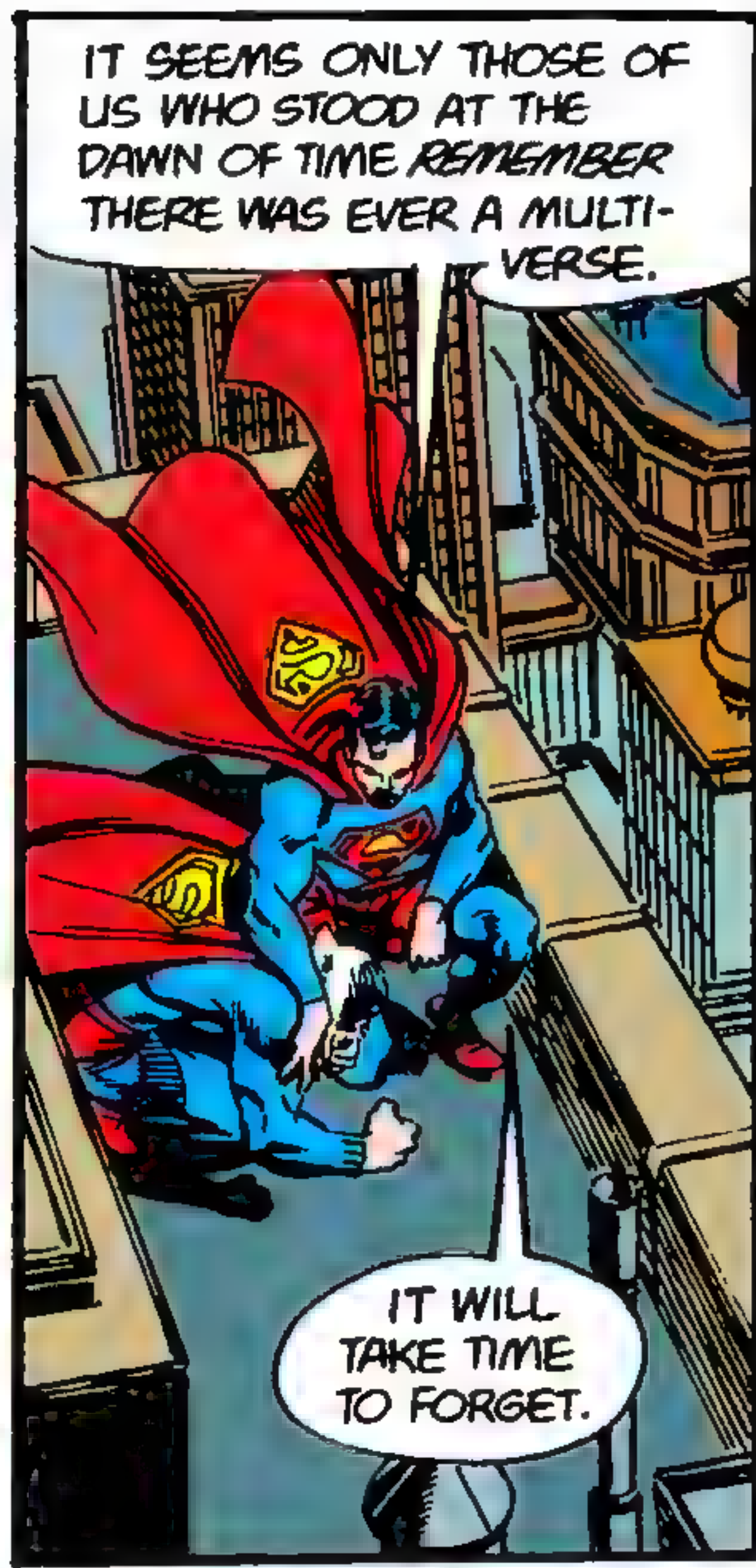
WHEN KARA DIED, YOU STOOD BY ME. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LOIS...

...BUT I'M NOT LETTING YOU GIVE UP ANY MORE THAN YOU LET ME.



BUT SHE'S GONE, AND I ONLY EXIST BECAUSE OF SOME WHIM OF FATE.

I--I DON'T BELONG HERE, KAL-EL. BUT, GOD HELP ME, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I DO.



IT SEEMS ONLY THOSE OF US WHO STOOD AT THE DAWN OF TIME REMEMBER THERE WAS EVER A MULTI-VERSE.

IT WILL TAKE TIME TO FORGET.



WHILE...

LET ME SAY SOMETHING, PLEASE.

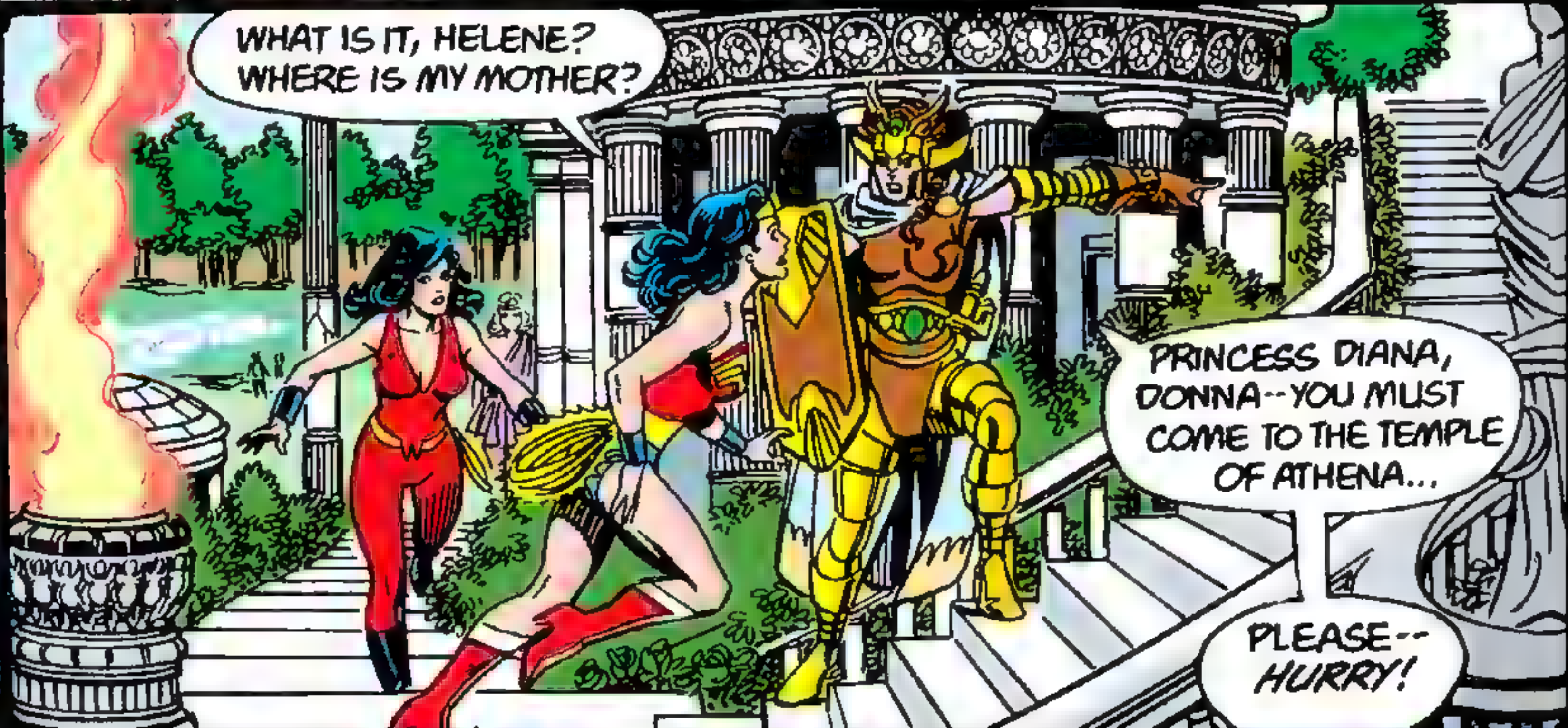
GO RIGHT AHEAD, WONDER GIRL.

YOU KNOW FURY IS THE DAUGHTER OF EARTH-2'S WONDER WOMAN...

...WHILE I'M THE ADOPTED SISTER OF EARTH-1'S.

MY WONDER WOMAN AND I WERE SUMMONED TO PARADISE ISLAND BY QUEEN HIPPOLYTA...

OUR QUEEN HIPPOLYTA... THE ONE THAT SURVIVED.



WHAT IS IT, HELENE? WHERE IS MY MOTHER?

PRINCESS DIANA, DONNA--YOU MUST COME TO THE TEMPLE OF ATHENA...

PLEASE--HURRY!



SUFFERING SAPPHO! EARTH-2'S WONDER WOMAN? WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?

MY DAUGHTER AND I RETURNED TO PARADISE ISLAND ...BUT THIS IS ALL WRONG. YOU AREN'T MY MOTHER.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



DIANA, ONLY WE KNOW THE EARTHS HAVE CHANGED. WE MUST TALK.

HERA-- PLEASE HELP ME NOW!

WE REMEMBERED THE MULTIVERSE AND WE SAW THE NEW PARADISE ISLAND HAD ELEMENTS OF BOTH EARTHS.

BUT NOBODY ELSE KNOWS.

WHY IS MY SUPERMAN NOT REMEMBERED, BUT I AM? IF OUR KRYPTON NEVER WAS, NOBODY SHOULD REMEMBER EITHER OF US.

I DO NOT KNOW, POWER GIRL. THERE ARE STILL MANY QUESTIONS THAT CANNOT BE ANSWERED.

BUT SOME OF THE ANSWERS ARE BECOMING OBVIOUS...

BATMAN?

...IF YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND THEM.

ROBIN, ALEX LUTHOR AND I CHECKED OUT A HUNCH I HAD.

WE NOW UNDERSTAND THE MULTIVERSE WAS REBORN AS ONE UNIVERSE. WHILE MOST OF OUR ORIGINS SURVIVED...

...A FEW DIDN'T. FOR INSTANCE, THERE IS NOW ONLY ONE JOKER, ONE PENGUIN...ONE RIDDLER.

THE OTHERS DIDN'T DIE... ON THIS NEW EARTH THEY JUST NEVER WERE.

I WANTED TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHO REMEMBERED THERE WAS EVER MORE THAN ONE EARTH.

I FOUND LEX LUTHOR IN HIS PRISON CELL.

WHAT DO YOU WANT, BATMAN?

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING US DEFEAT THE ANTI-MONITOR.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ARE YOU CRAZY, OR--

OH, I SEE. YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE IT SEEM LIKE I'D WORK WITH YOU COSTUMED CREEPS.

YOU THINK THAT WOULD RUIN MY REP HERE, RIGHT?

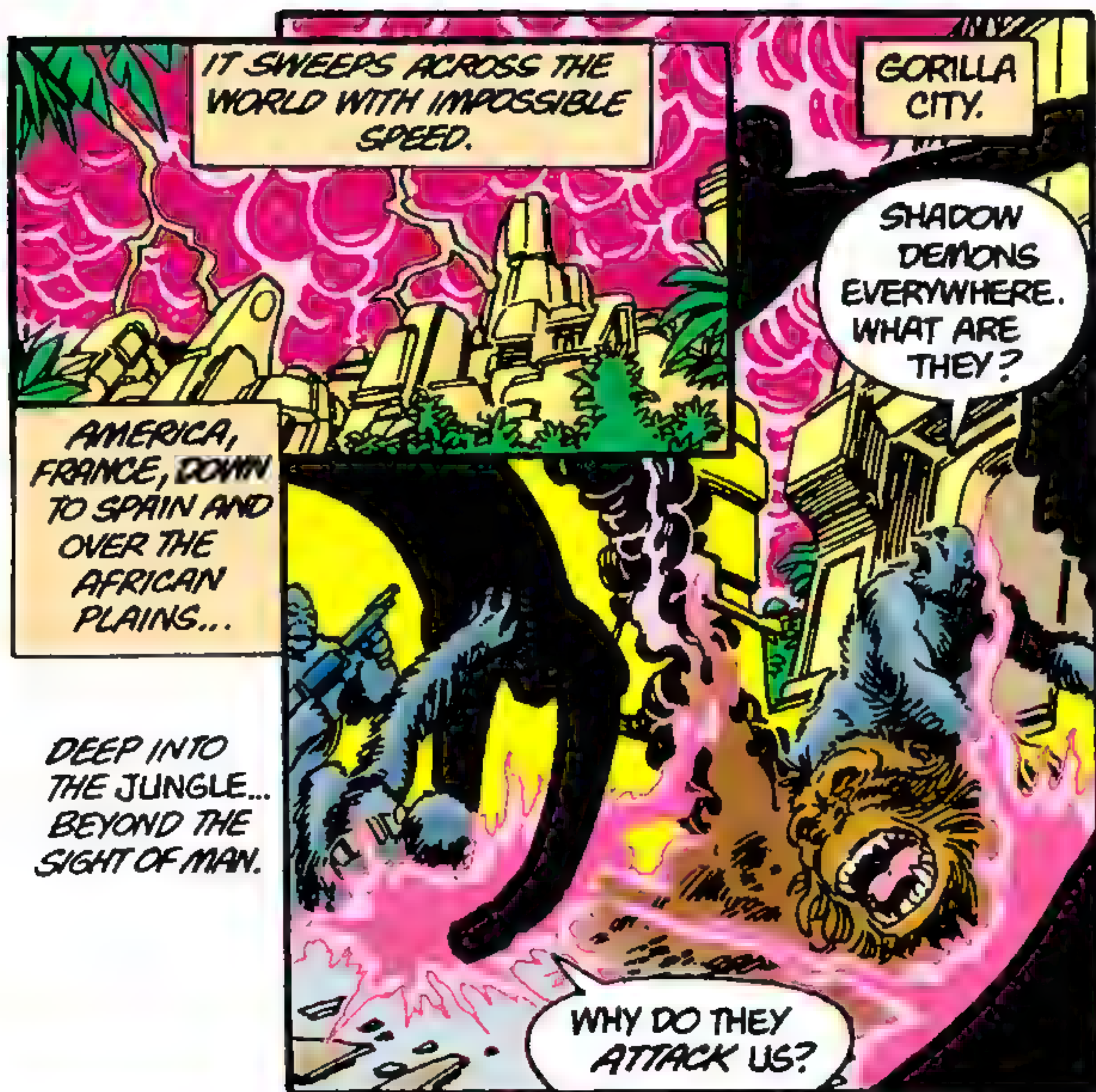
WELL, FORGET IT, MASKED-MAN--NOTHING COULD MAKE LEX LUTHOR HELP THE LIKES OF YOU!

LUTHOR KNEW NOTHING. THAT MEANT NONE OF THE VILLAINS REMEMBERED FIGHTING ALONGSIDE US.

ONLY THE GUYS WHO FOUGHT MONNY AT THE DAWN OF TIME REMEMBERED THE CONFUSIN' GOOD OL' DAYS!

HEY, LISTEN TO THAT THUNDER!

PLEASE... NOT THE FUNNY WEATHER AGAIN!



IT SWEEPS ACROSS THE WORLD WITH IMPOSSIBLE SPEED.

GORILLA CITY.

SHADOW DEMONS EVERYWHERE. WHAT ARE THEY?

AMERICA, FRANCE, DOWN TO SPAIN AND OVER THE AFRICAN PLAINS...

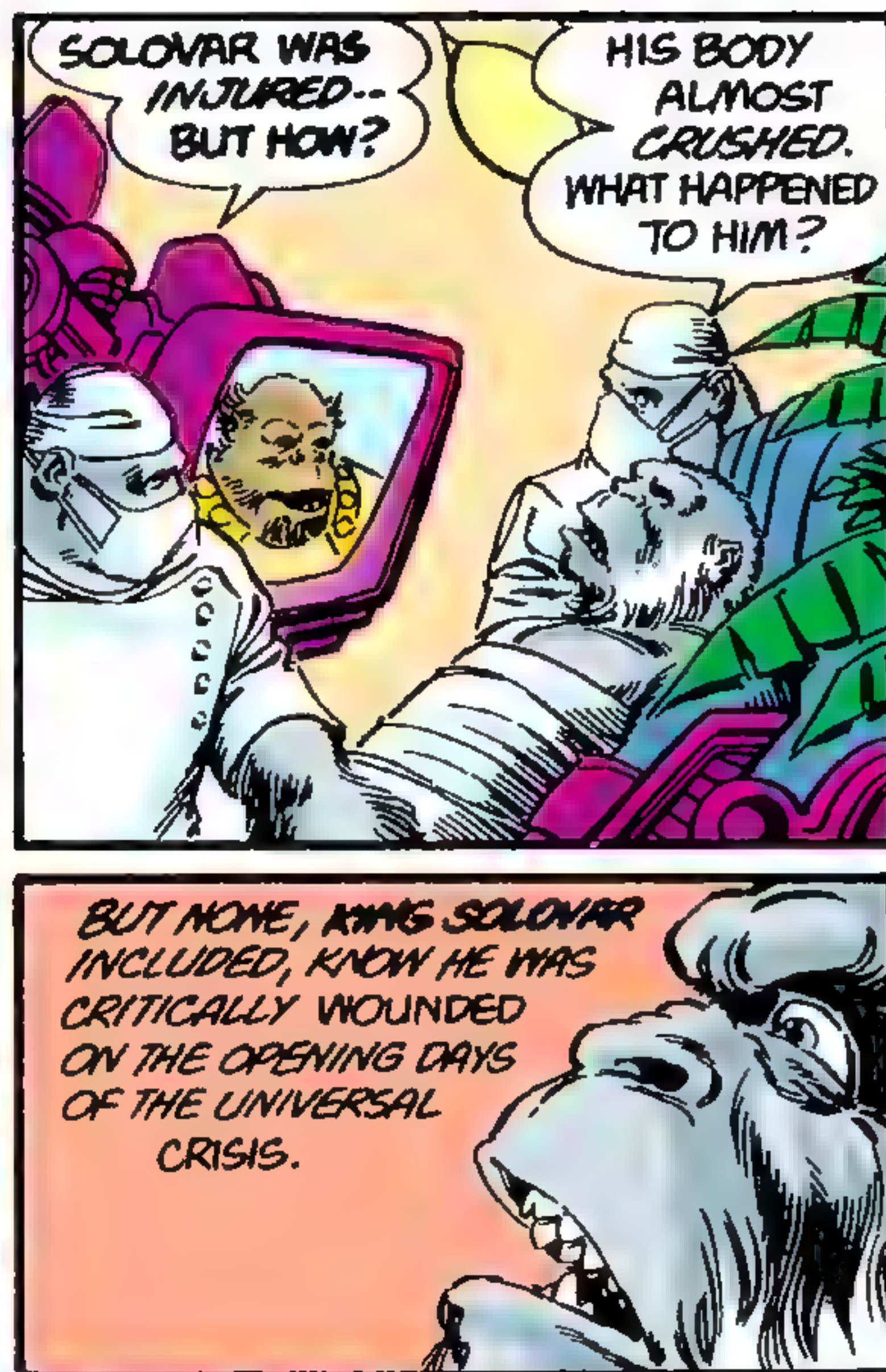
DEEP INTO THE JUNGLE... BEYOND THE SIGHT OF MAN.

WHY DO THEY ATTACK US?



SAM SIMEON, WHAT IS GOING ON?

I DON'T KNOW, BOBO... NOT EVEN SOLOVAR KNOWS.



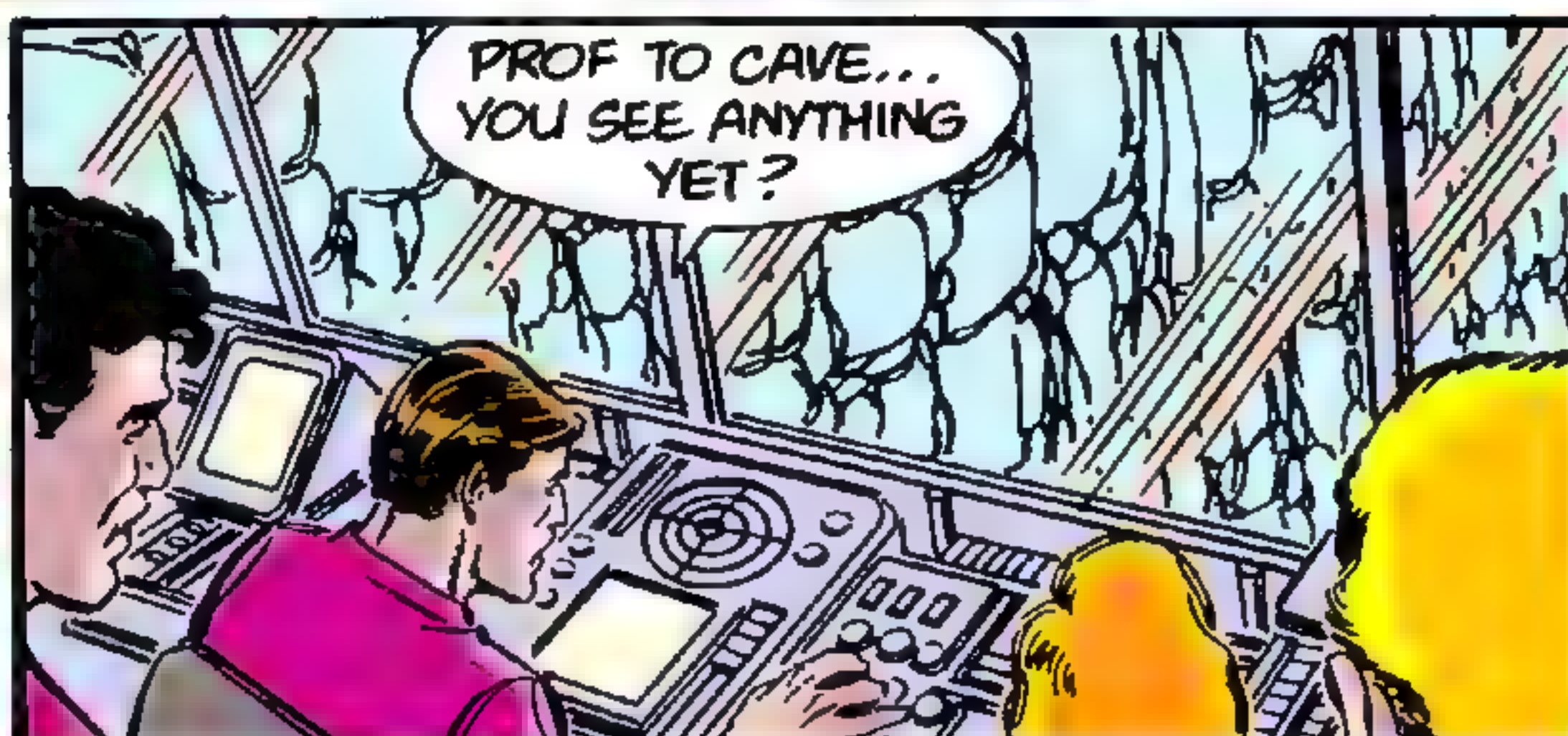
SOLOVAR WAS INJURED... BUT HOW?

HIS BODY ALMOST CRUSHED. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

BUT NONE, KING SOLOVAR INCLUDED, KNOW HE WAS CRITICALLY WOUNDED ON THE OPENING DAYS OF THE UNIVERSAL CRISIS.

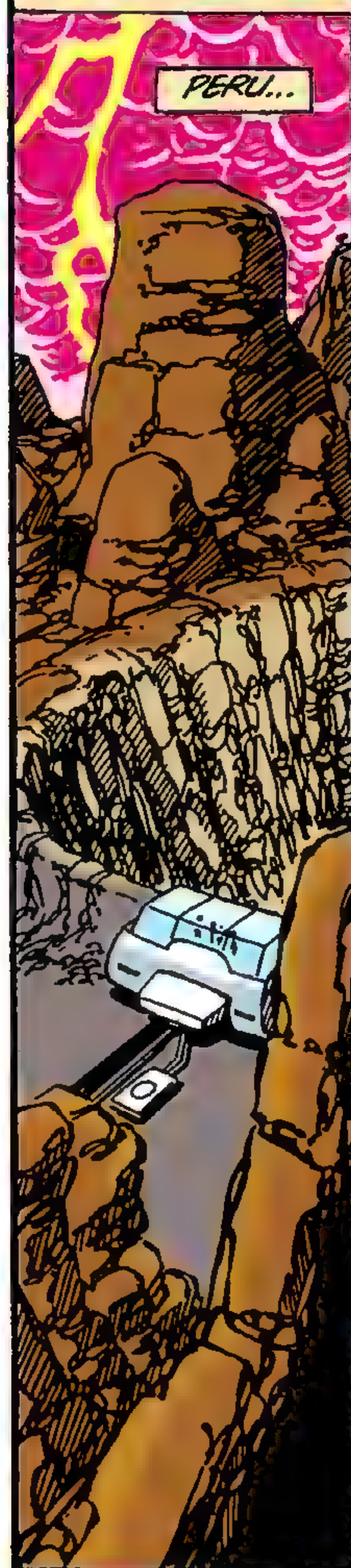
THE WEATHER THUNDERS ACROSS THE GLOBE THROUGH ASIA, DOWN TO AUSTRALIA, ACROSS THE OCEANS TO SOUTH AMERICA...

PERU...



PROF TO CAVE... YOU SEE ANYTHING YET?

FOR A LONG MOMENT THERE IS SILENCE. IN THE GROUND STATION, THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN WAIT IN RAPT ATTENTION.



NOTHING, PROF. ... BUT WE'VE LEFT THE MIGHTY MOLE AND ARE PROCEEDING ON FOOT.

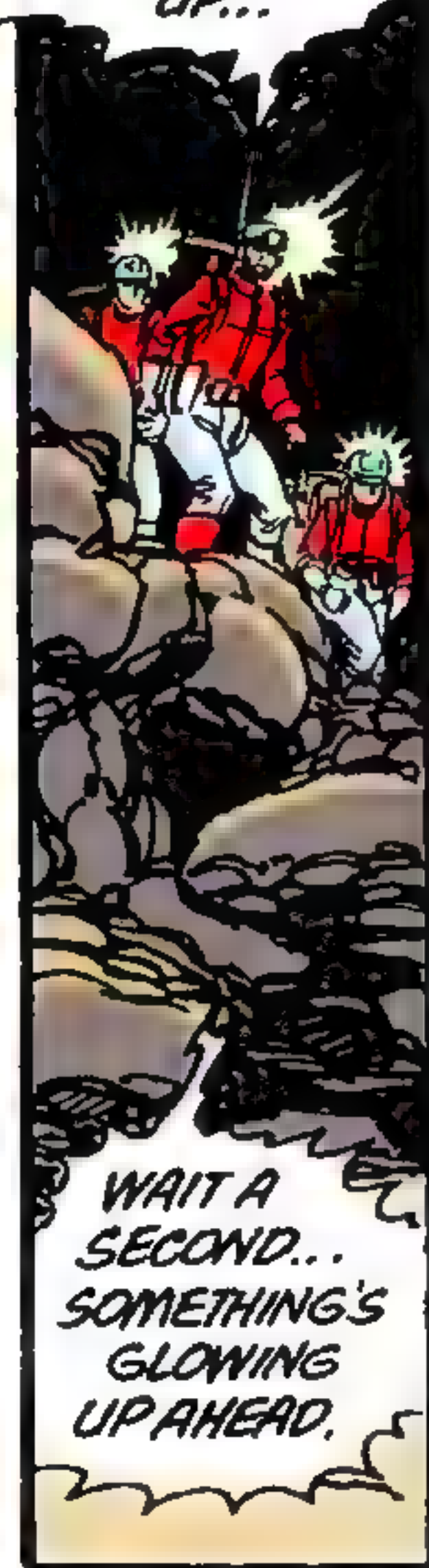
AND WE'RE TRACKING THOSE STRANGE VIBRATIONS YOU FELLAS PICKED UP...

RENOWNED SPELUNKER CAVE CARSON, ALONG WITH HIS CREW, STEPS FORWARD TOWARD THE EERIE LIGHT...

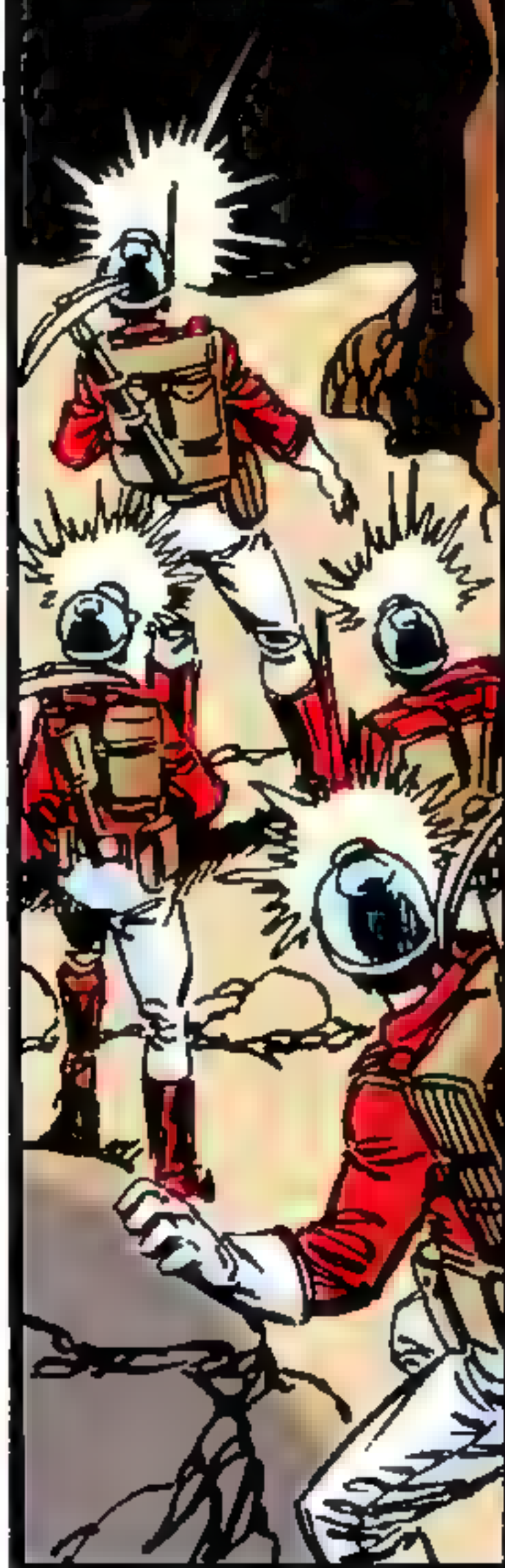
THEY ARE 3,000 MILES BELOW THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

YEAH, SOMETHING'S THERE, ALL RIGHT. PICKING UP A WIND-LIKE NOISE...

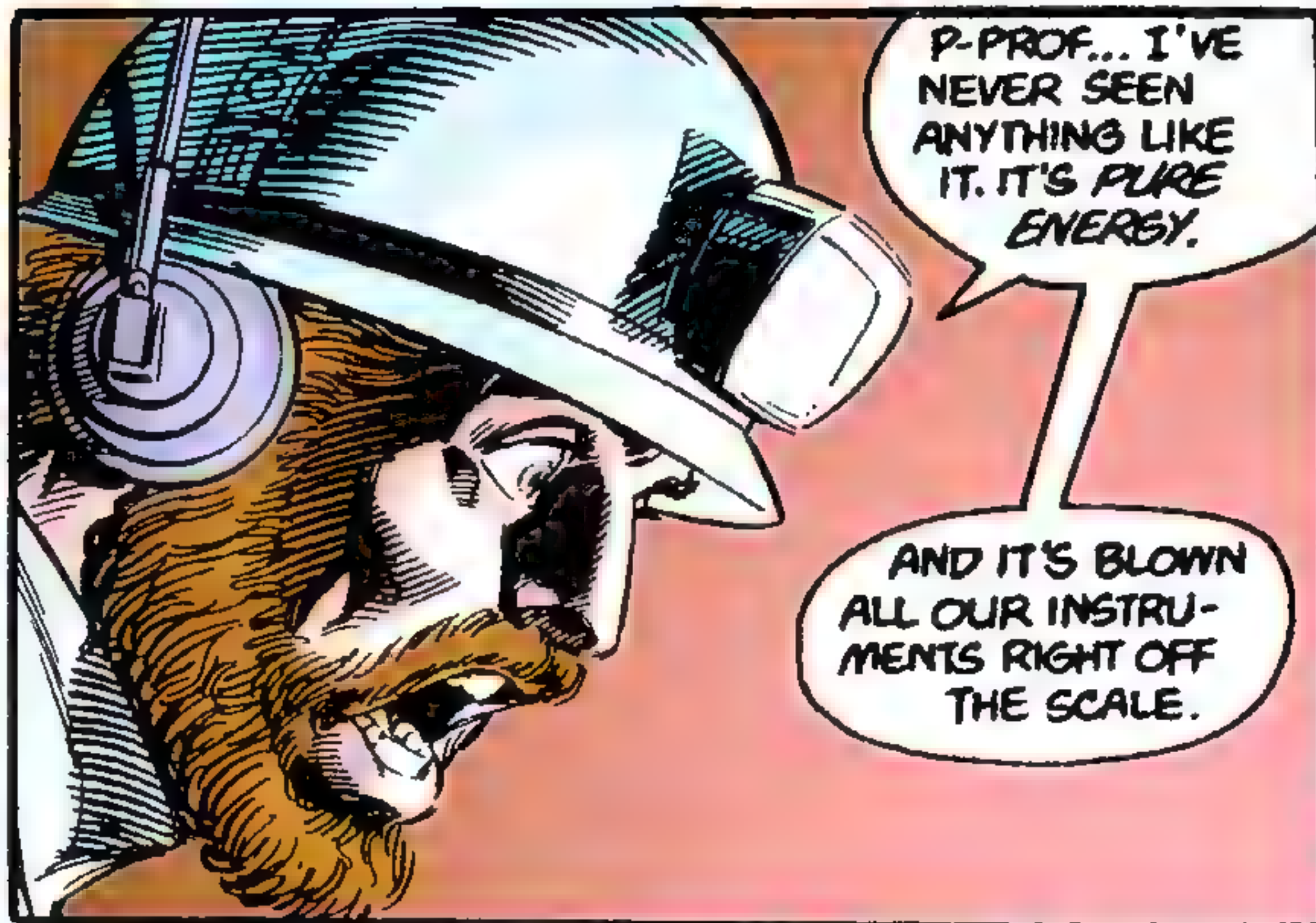
WHATEVER IT IS, I THINK WE'VE--



WAIT A SECOND... SOMETHING'S GLOWING UP AHEAD.



OH, MY GOD!

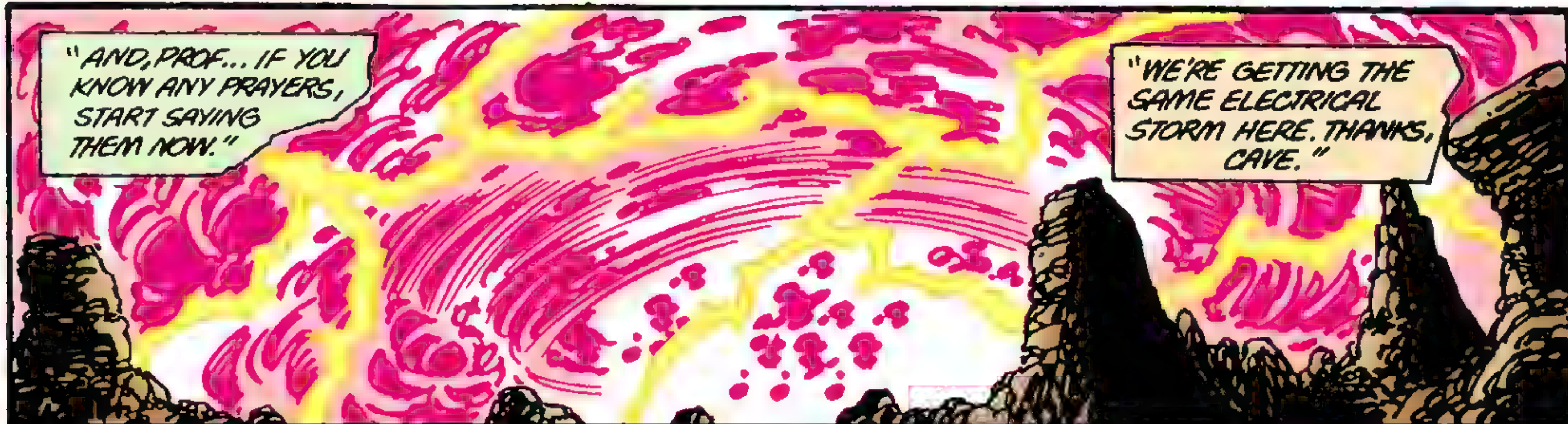


P-PROF... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. IT'S PURE ENERGY.

AND IT'S BLOWN ALL OUR INSTRUMENTS RIGHT OFF THE SCALE.



GET IN TOUCH WITH TITANS TOWER! THEY'RE WAITING FOR THIS.

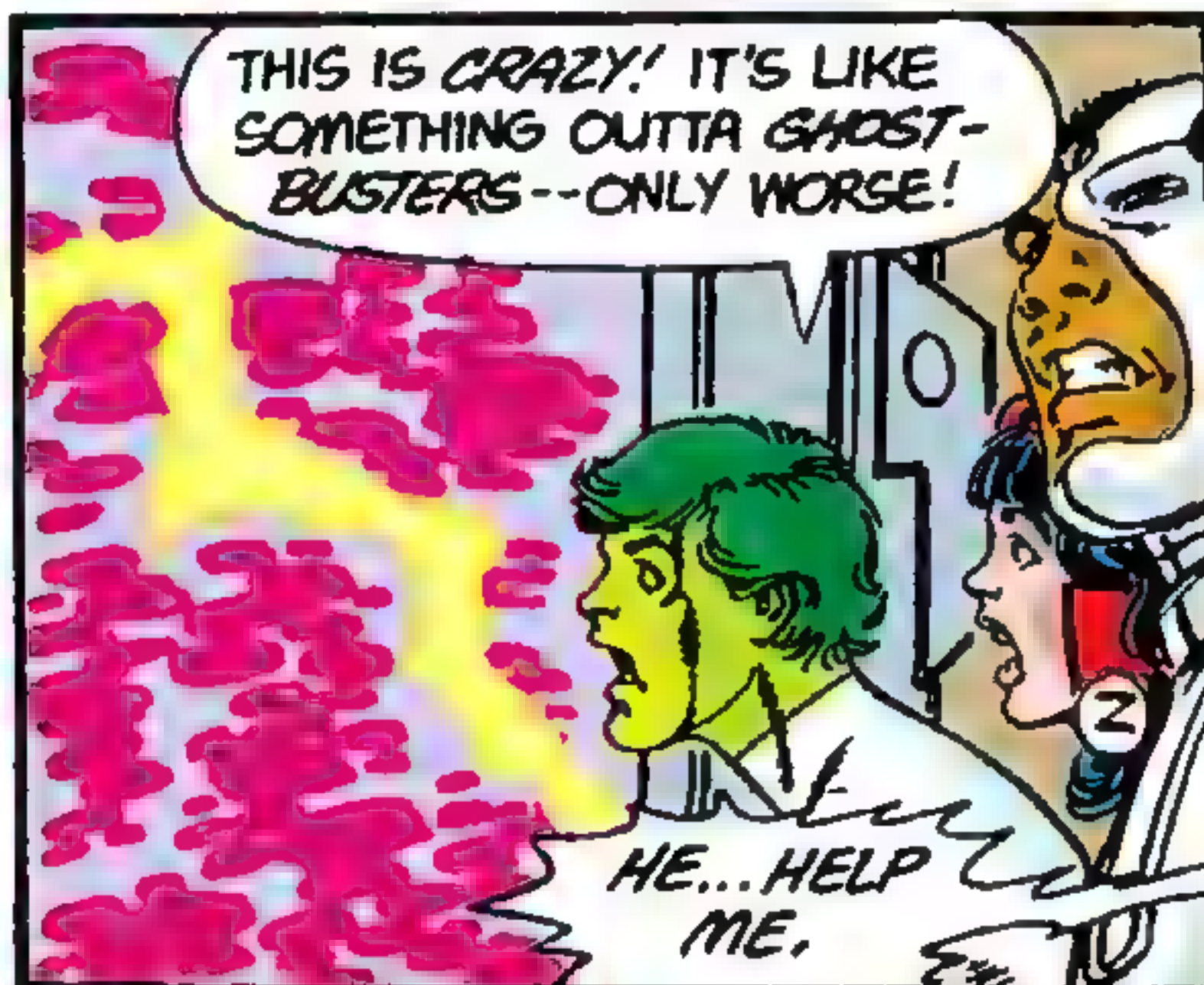


"AND, PROF... IF YOU KNOW ANY PRAYERS, START SAYING THEM NOW."

"WE'RE GETTING THE SAME ELECTRICAL STORM HERE. THANKS, CAVE."

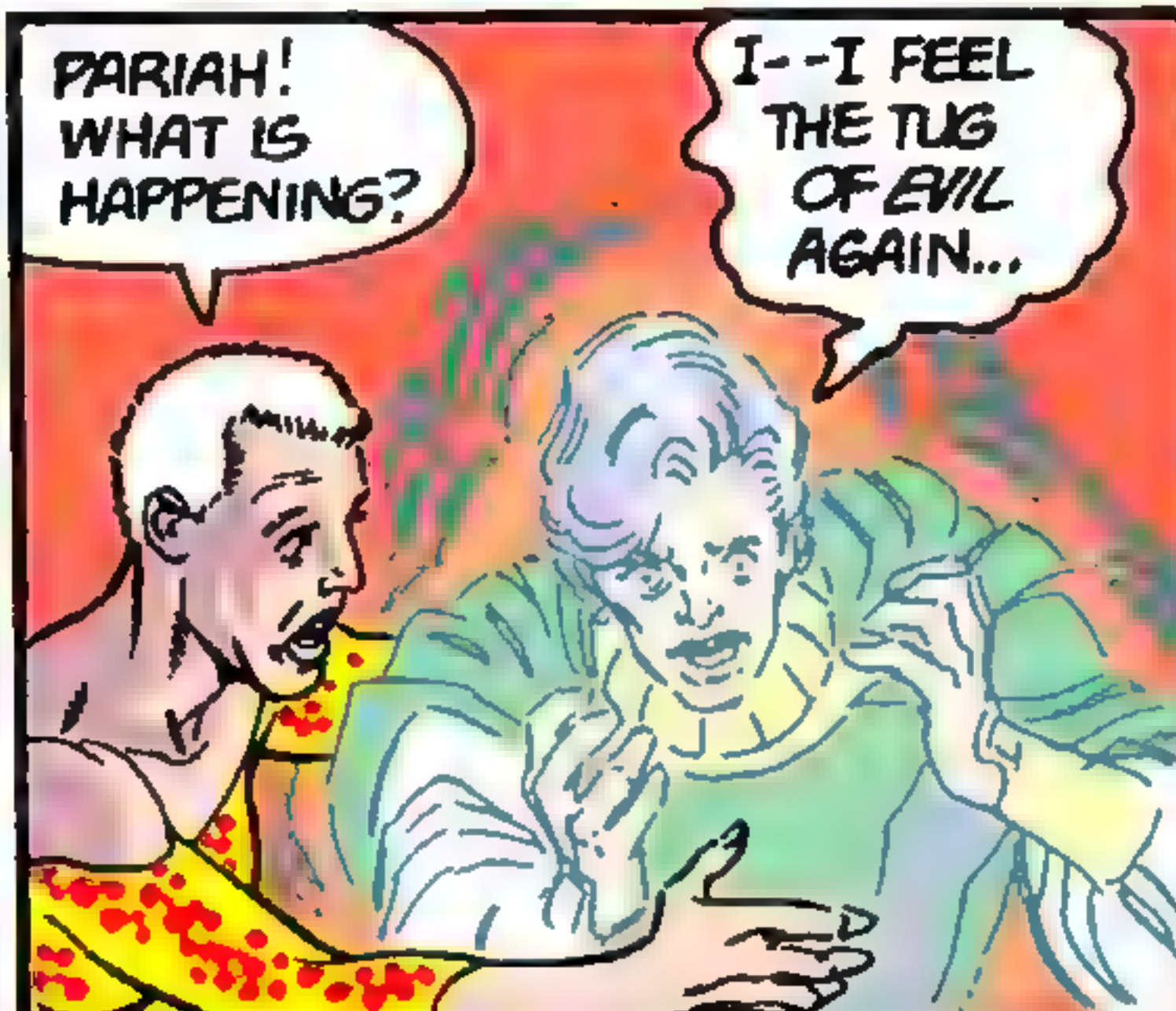


GET YOURSELF TO SAFETY RIGHT AWAY.



THIS IS CRAZY! IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUTTA GHOST-BUSTERS--ONLY WORSE!

HE... HELP ME.



PARIAH! WHAT IS HAPPENING?

I--I FEEL THE TUG OF EVIL AGAIN...



PULLING AT ME...

B-BUT... BUT I'M NOT DISAPPEARING...

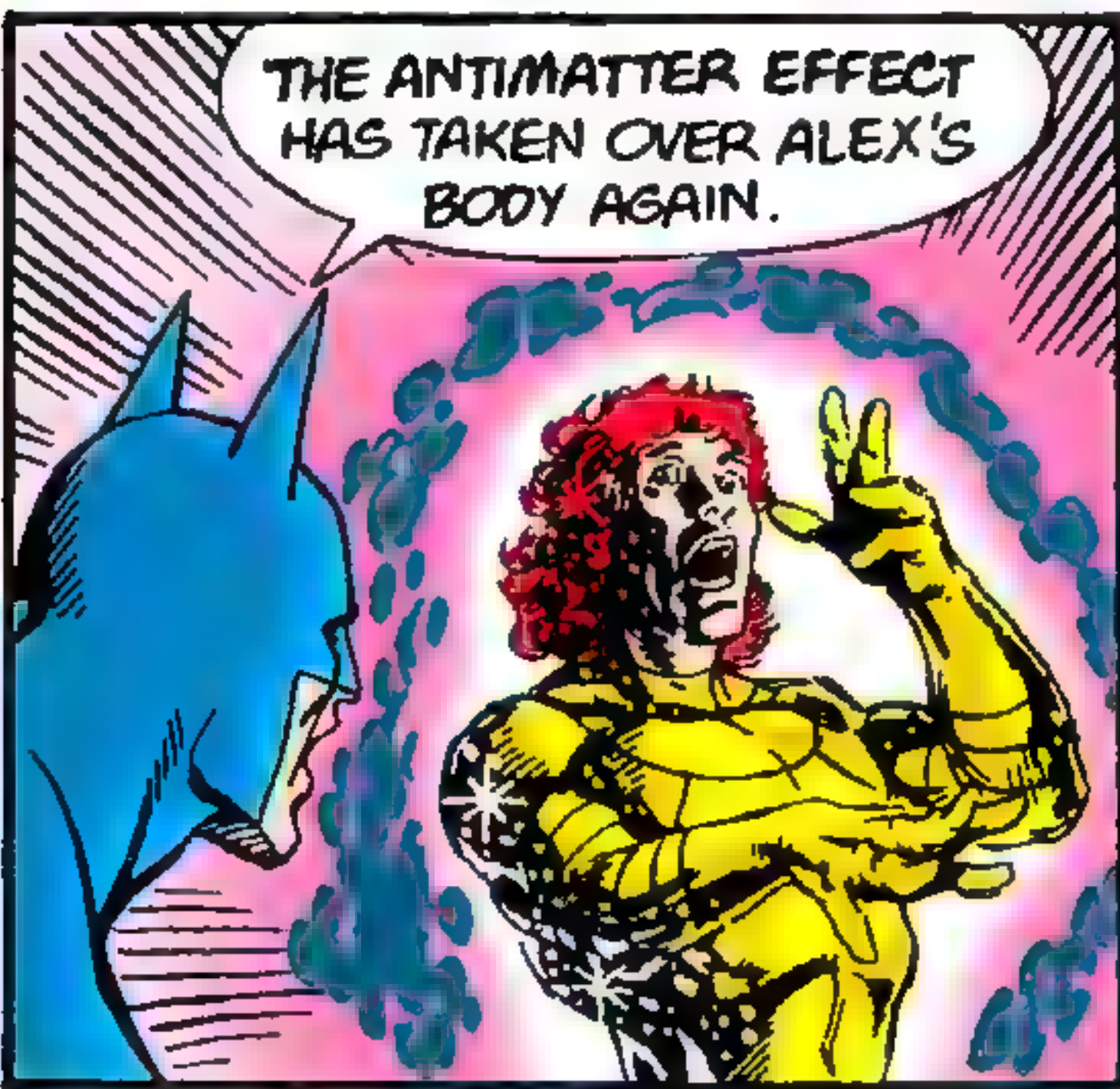
ABOVE THE EARTH, IN THE SCARLET SKIES, THE UNIVERSE SEEMS TO OPEN.

LORD, IT HURTS... SO COLD... SO VERY COLD!

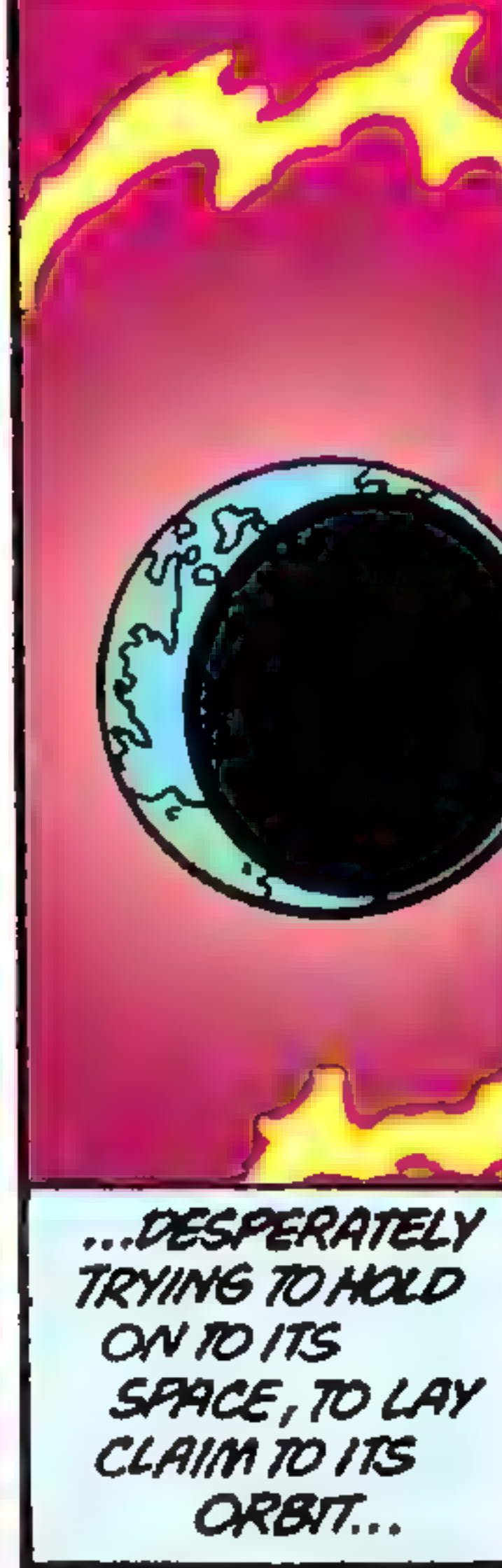
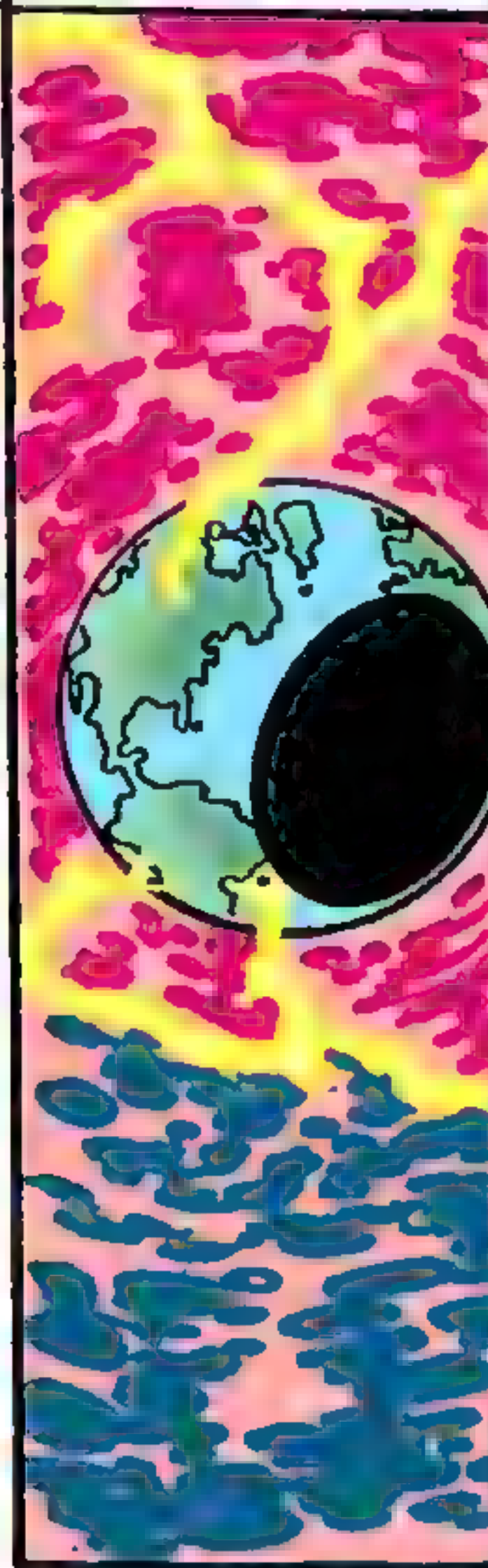
THE YAWNING MAW STARES HUNGRILY AT THE BLUE-GRAY GLOBE WHICH FLOATS BEFORE IT.

THE EARTH SHAKES AND PROTESTS AND FIGHTS AND SCREAMS...

BUT IT FAILS.



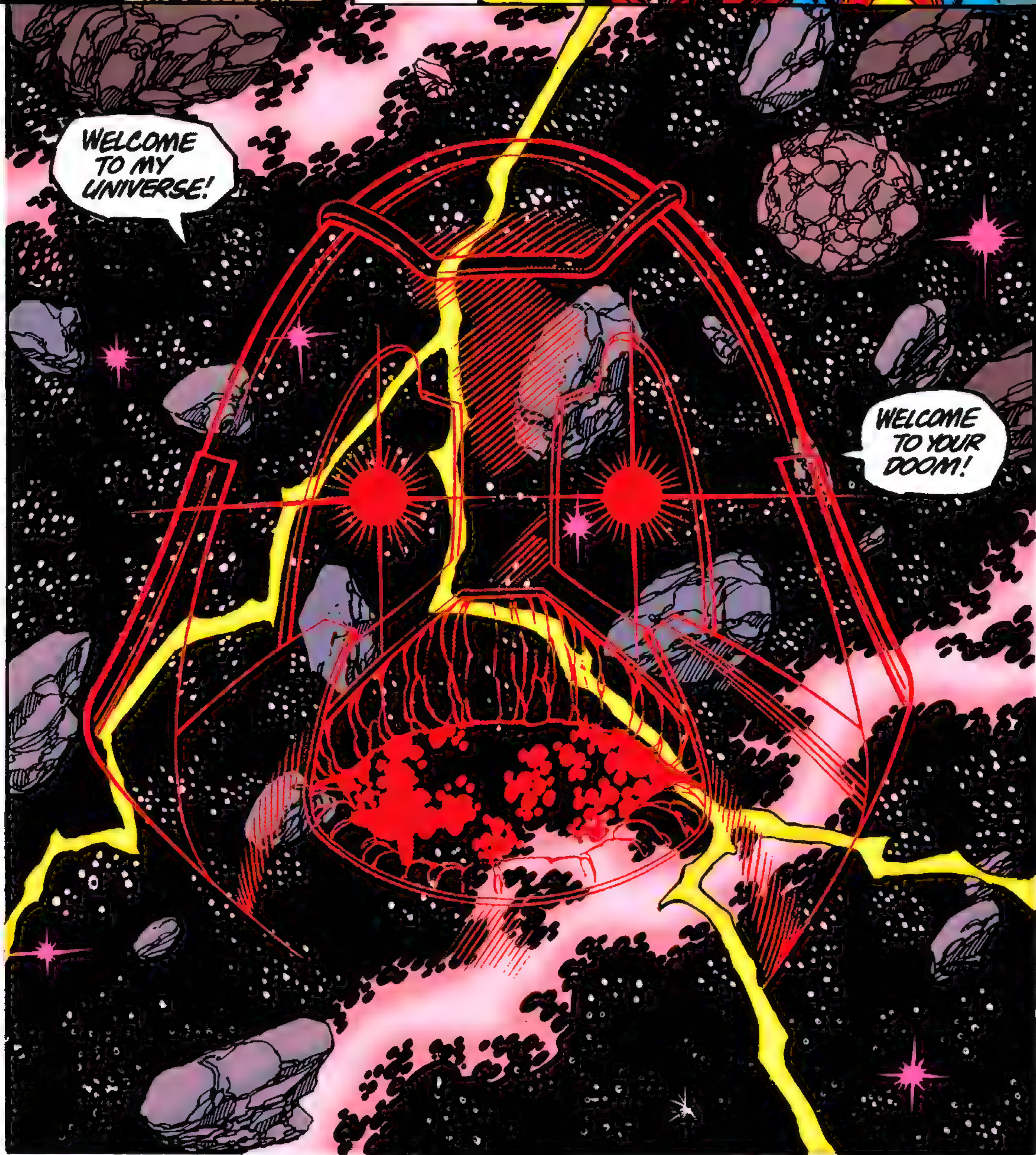
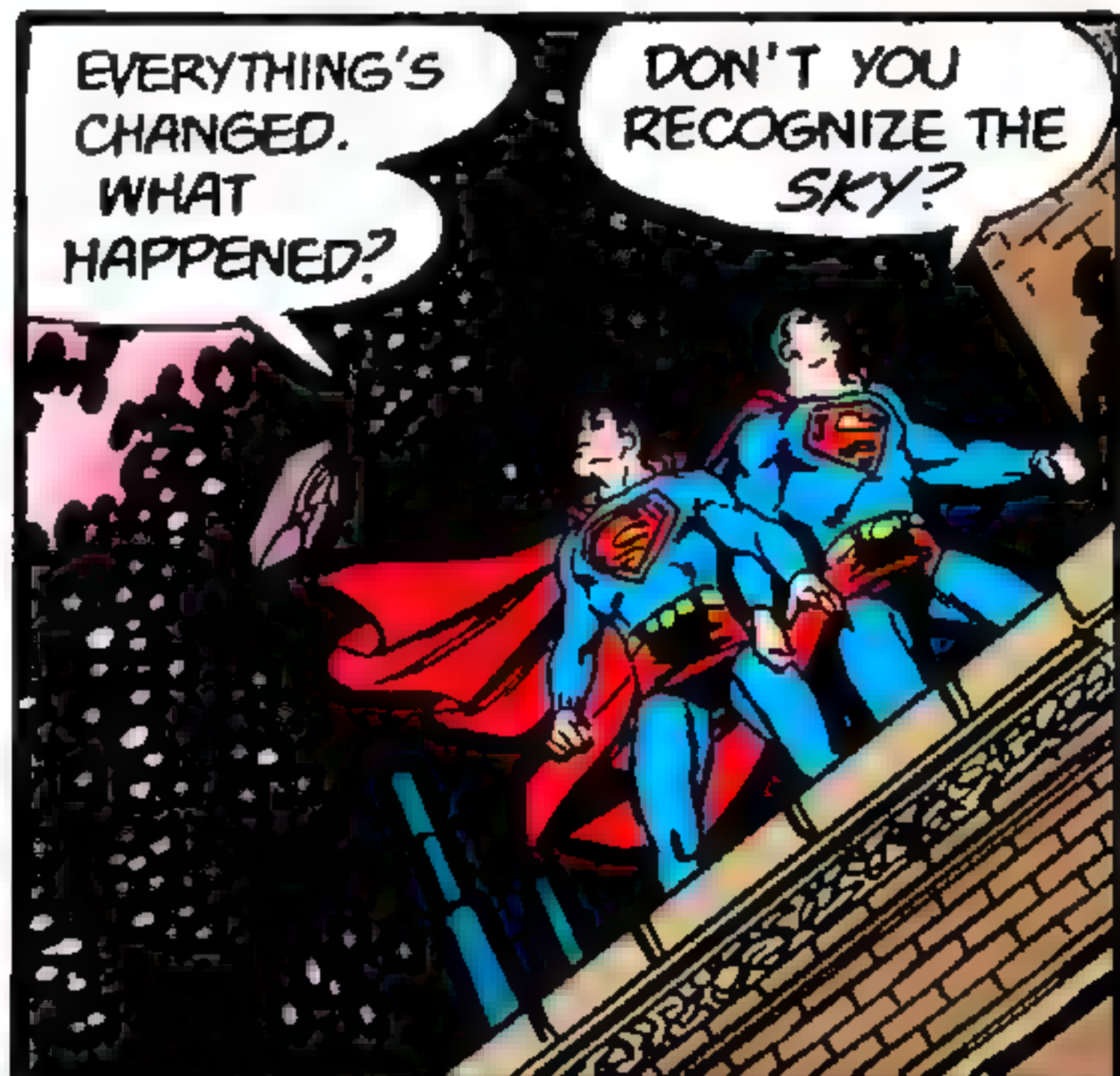
THE ANTIMATTER EFFECT HAS TAKEN OVER ALEX'S BODY AGAIN.



...DESPERATELY TRYING TO HOLD ON TO ITS SPACE, TO LAY CLAIM TO ITS ORBIT...



SUDDENLY, IT IS GONE, SWALLOWED WHOLE, A COSMIC JONAH LOST TO SOME INTER-UNIVERSAL WHALE.



**NEXT
ISSUE**

AT LONG LAST--THE ISSUE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! OUR DOUBLE-SIZE CONCLUSION!

THE FINAL CRISIS



DOLPHIN,
BEAUTIFUL
SIREN OF
THE SEVEN
SEAS.

CAPTAIN COMET, MUTANT BORN
100,000 YEARS BEFORE HIS TIME.

ADAM STRANGE,
SAVIOR OF THE
PLANET RANN.

I... I CAN
NOT BELIEVE
THIS.

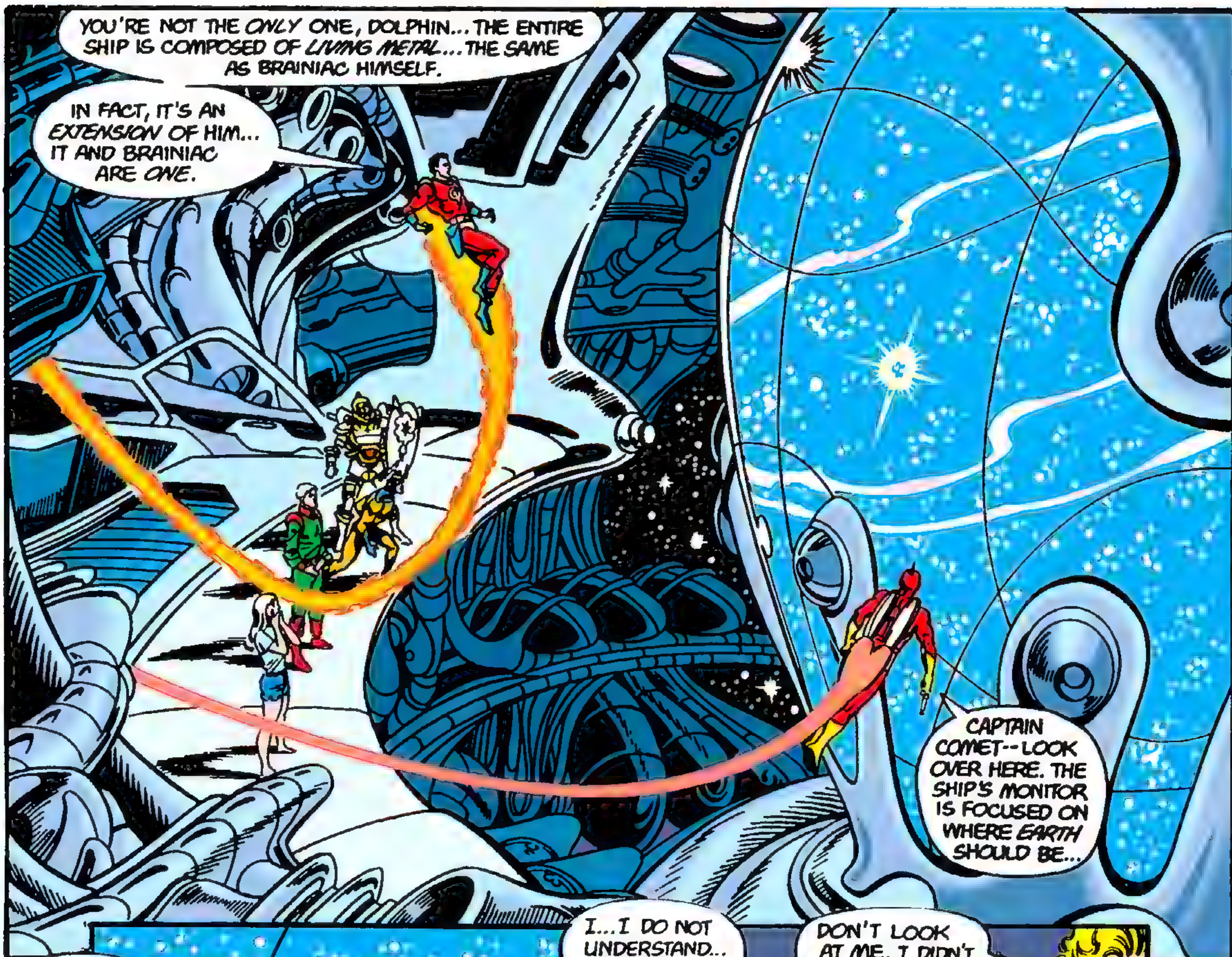
RIP HUNTER,
WORLD-FAMOUS
TIME MASTER.

ANIMAL MAN,
POSSESSING THE
POWER OF ALL
ANIMALS.

THE ATOMIC
KNIGHT, NUCLEAR
WARRIOR WITHOUT
PEER.

SIX SPACEBOUND
EARTH MEN INVESTIGATING
THE INCREDIBLE LIVING
STARSHIP OF THE
MECHANICAL MENACE
KNOWN AS BRAINIAC.

I HAVE...
NEVER... SEEN
ANYTHING... LIKE
IT BEFORE.



YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, DOLPHIN... THE ENTIRE SHIP IS COMPOSED OF LIVING METAL... THE SAME AS BRAINIAC HIMSELF.

IN FACT, IT'S AN EXTENSION OF HIM... IT AND BRAINIAC ARE ONE.

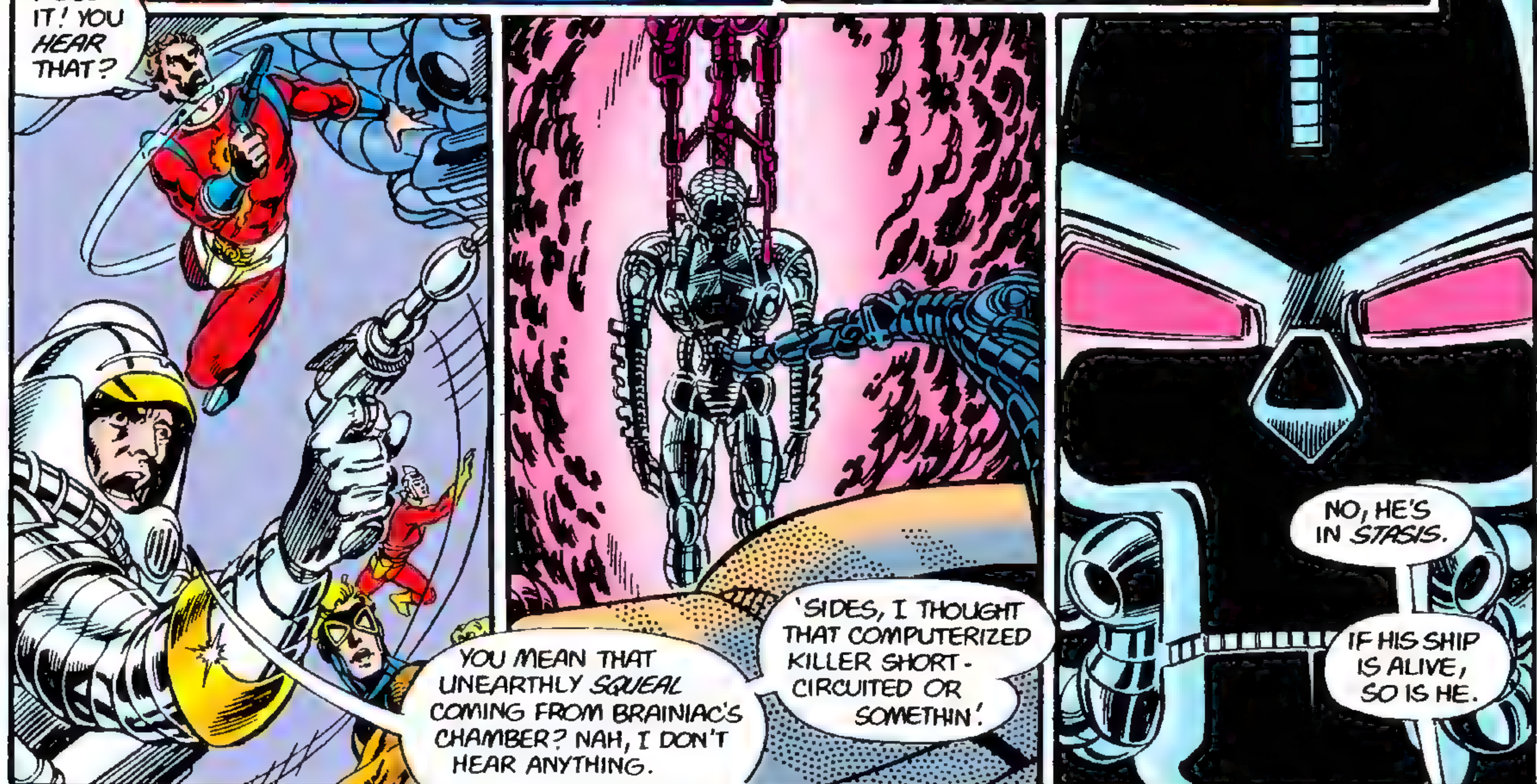
CAPTAIN COMET--LOOK OVER HERE. THE SHIP'S MONITOR IS FOCUSED ON WHERE EARTH SHOULD BE...



BUT IT'S GONE!

I... I DO NOT UNDERSTAND... W-WHERE DID IT GO?

DON'T LOOK AT ME. I DIDN'T TAKE IT.



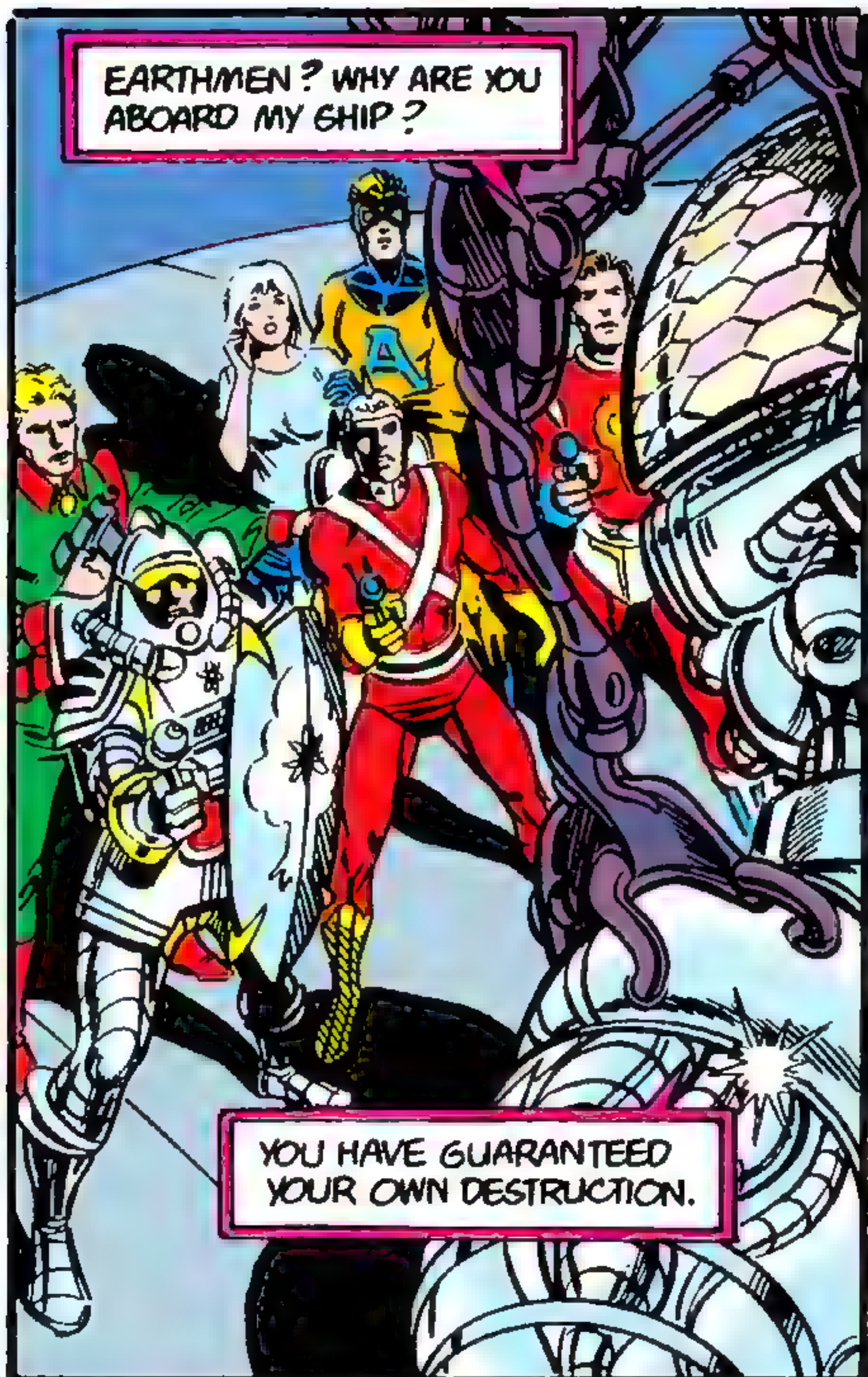
HOLD IT! YOU HEAR THAT?

YOU MEAN THAT UNEARTHLY SQUEAL COMING FROM BRAINIAC'S CHAMBER? NAH, I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING.

'SIDES, I THOUGHT THAT COMPUTERIZED KILLER SHORT-CIRCUITED OR SOMETHIN'.

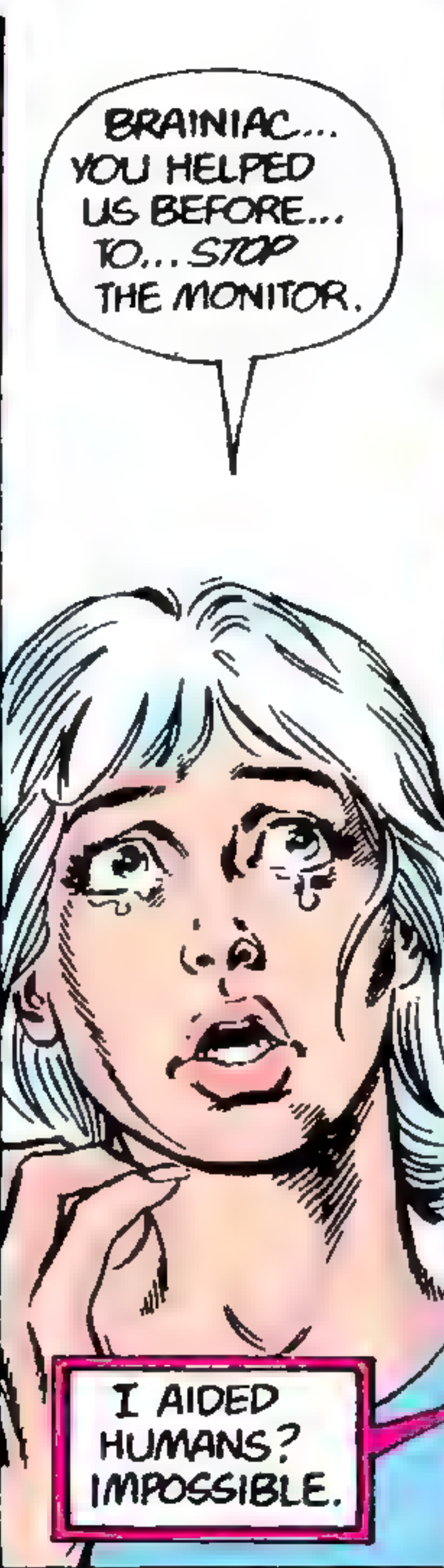
NO, HE'S IN STASIS.

IF HIS SHIP IS ALIVE, SO IS HE.



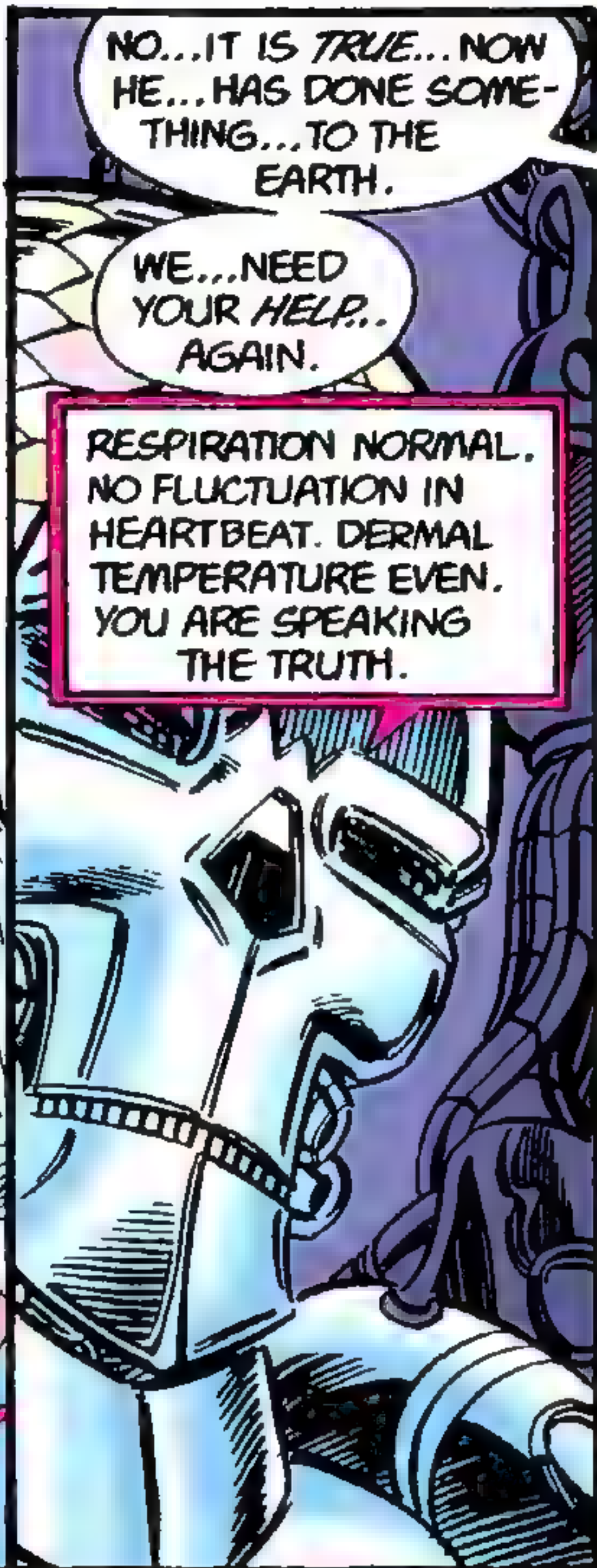
EARTHMEN? WHY ARE YOU ABOARD MY SHIP?

YOU HAVE GUARANTEED YOUR OWN DESTRUCTION.



BRAINIAC... YOU HELPED US BEFORE... TO... STOP THE MONITOR.

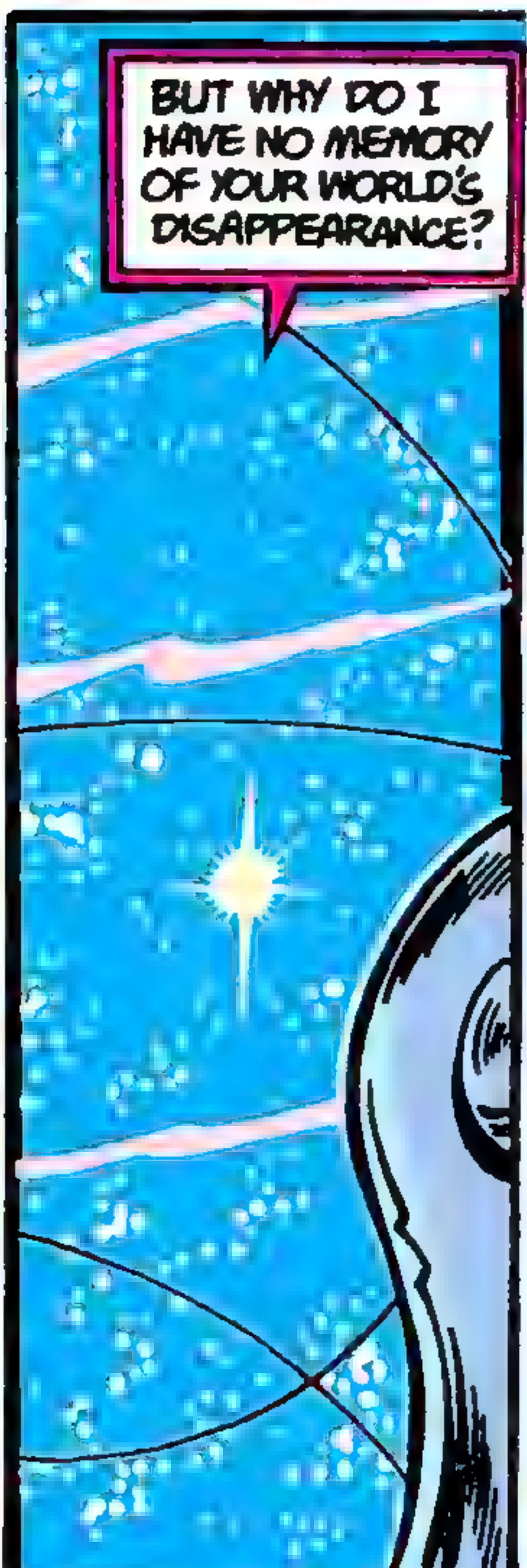
I AIDED HUMANS? IMPOSSIBLE.



NO...IT IS TRUE...NOW HE...HAS DONE SOMETHING...TO THE EARTH.

WE...NEED YOUR HELP.. AGAIN.

RESPIRATION NORMAL. NO FLUCTUATION IN HEARTBEAT. DERMAL TEMPERATURE EVEN. YOU ARE SPEAKING THE TRUTH.



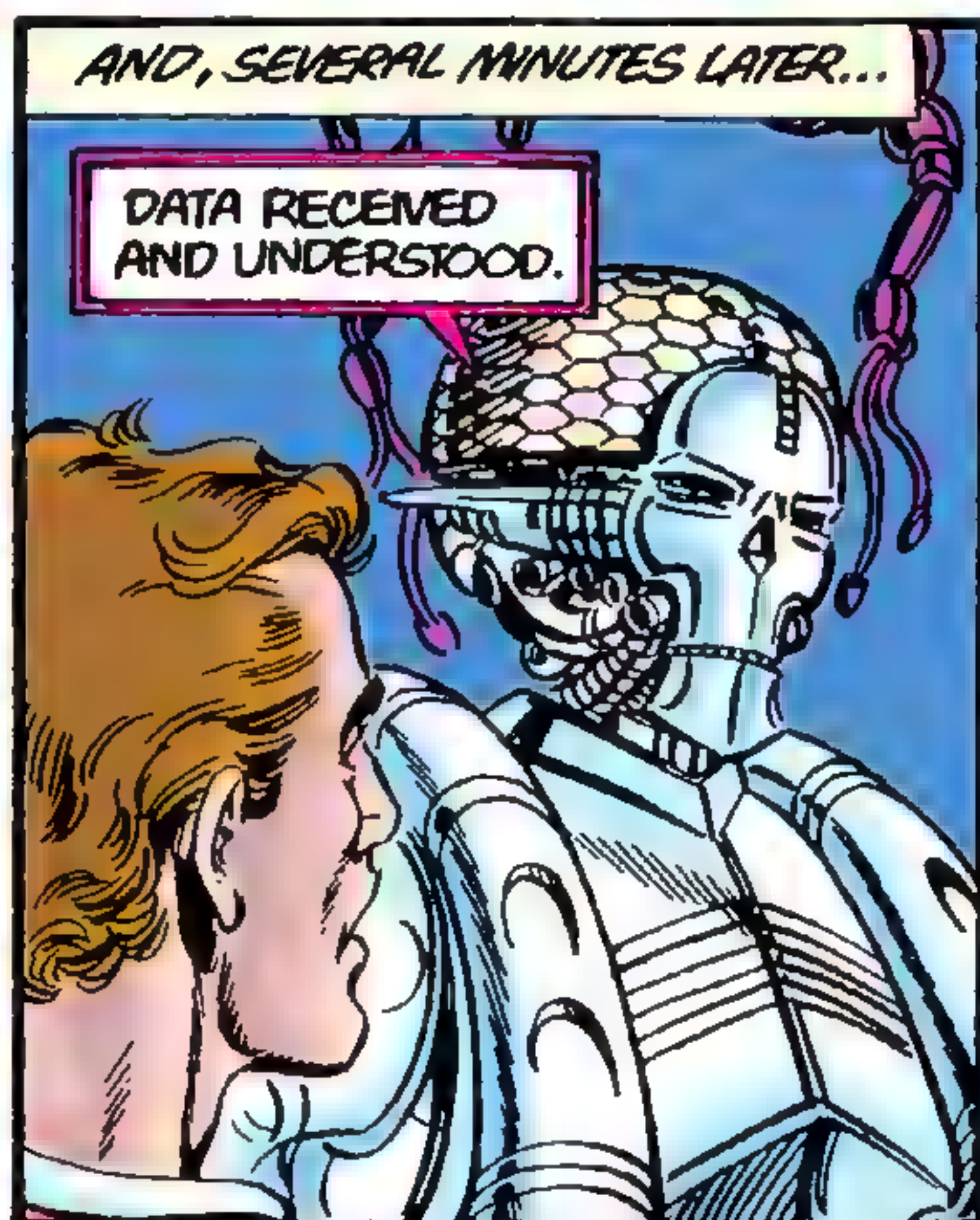
BUT WHY DO I HAVE NO MEMORY OF YOUR WORLD'S DISAPPEARANCE?



REM: MY PROGRAMMING HAS BEEN ALTERED. TO LEARN THE CAUSE OF THIS ALTERATION...

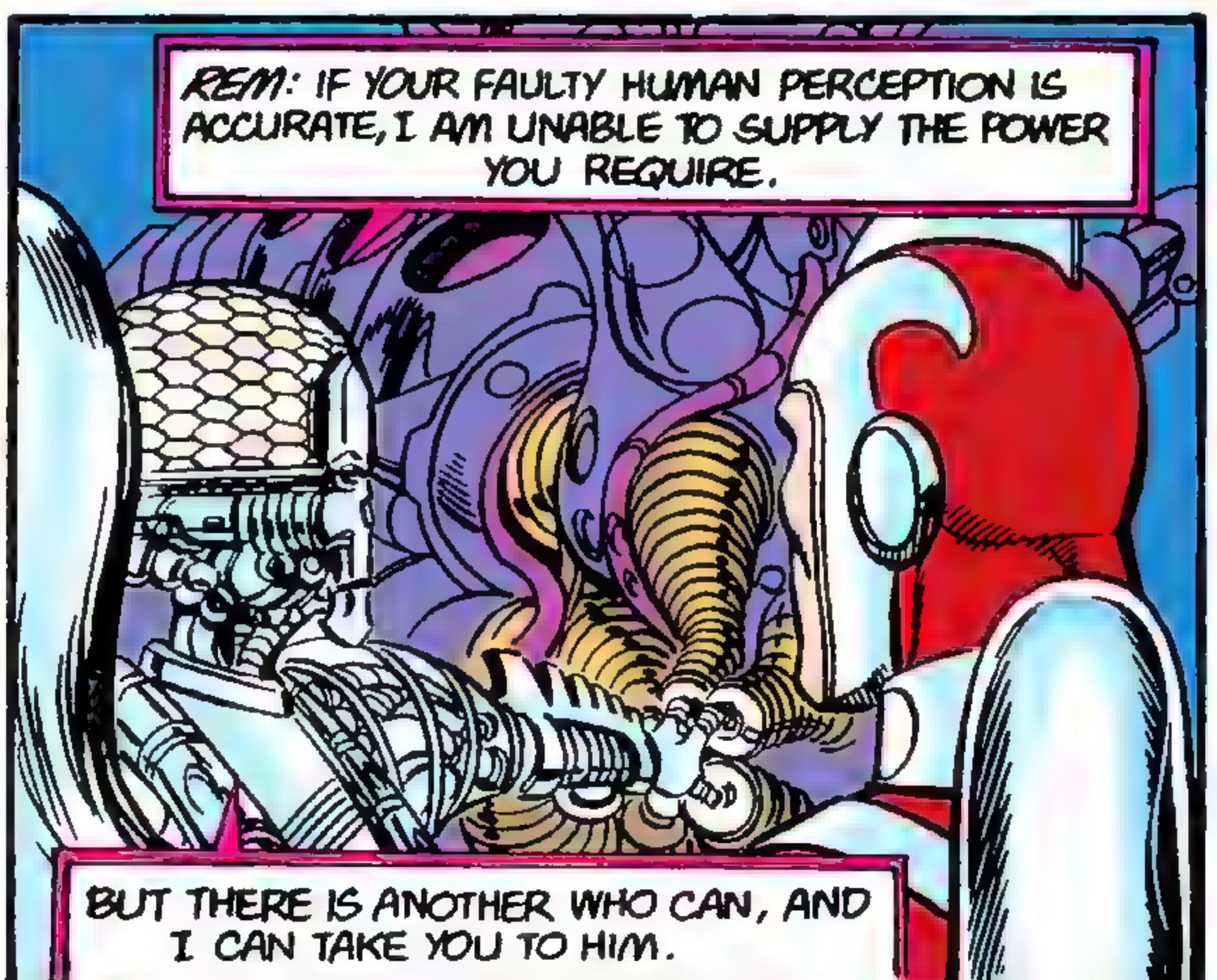
...I MUST BECOME AWARE OF WHAT OCCURRED DURING MY SHUTDOWN.

SUPPLY DATA NOW.



AND, SEVERAL MINUTES LATER...

DATA RECEIVED AND UNDERSTOOD.



REM: IF YOUR FAULTY HUMAN PERCEPTION IS ACCURATE, I AM UNABLE TO SUPPLY THE POWER YOU REQUIRE.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER WHO CAN, AND I CAN TAKE YOU TO HIM.



STAND BACK WHILE I INTERFACE WITH MY SHIP AND DIRECT IT TO ITS INTER-DIMENSIONAL DESTINATION.

BOYS AN' GIRLS, SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'RE GOIN' WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE!

OUR JOURNEY NOW BEGINS.



CAPTAIN, WARP FACTOR 6...



...AN' LET'S PRAY THESE ENGINES CAN TAKE THE STRAIN!

THE EARTH SHUDDERS AND SCREAMS AS IT IS WRENCHED FROM THE SAFETY OF ITS ORBITAL NEST AND BROUGHT HERE...

HERE TO THIS BURNING COSMIC HELL.

HERE TO THIS PLACE OF DEATH.

THE AIR IS ALIVE WITH FIRE AND ELECTRICITY, WITH THE STINK OF SULFUR, WITH THE BANSHEE WAIL OF THINGS LONG DEAD...

WELCOME TO THE ANTIMATTER UNIVERSE...

WELCOME TO YOUR DOOM!

THE PLANET EARTH-- SHIELDED FROM THE REST OF THE ANTIMATTER UNIVERSE BY AN IMPENETRABLE FORCE FIELD... NOT TO KEEP THE ANTI-MONITOR OUT, BUT TO KEEP EARTH'S HEROES TRAPPED WITHIN.

FINAL CRISIS



SINCE MY BIRTH, TEN BILLION YEARS AGO, I HAVE NOT KNOWN DEFEAT.



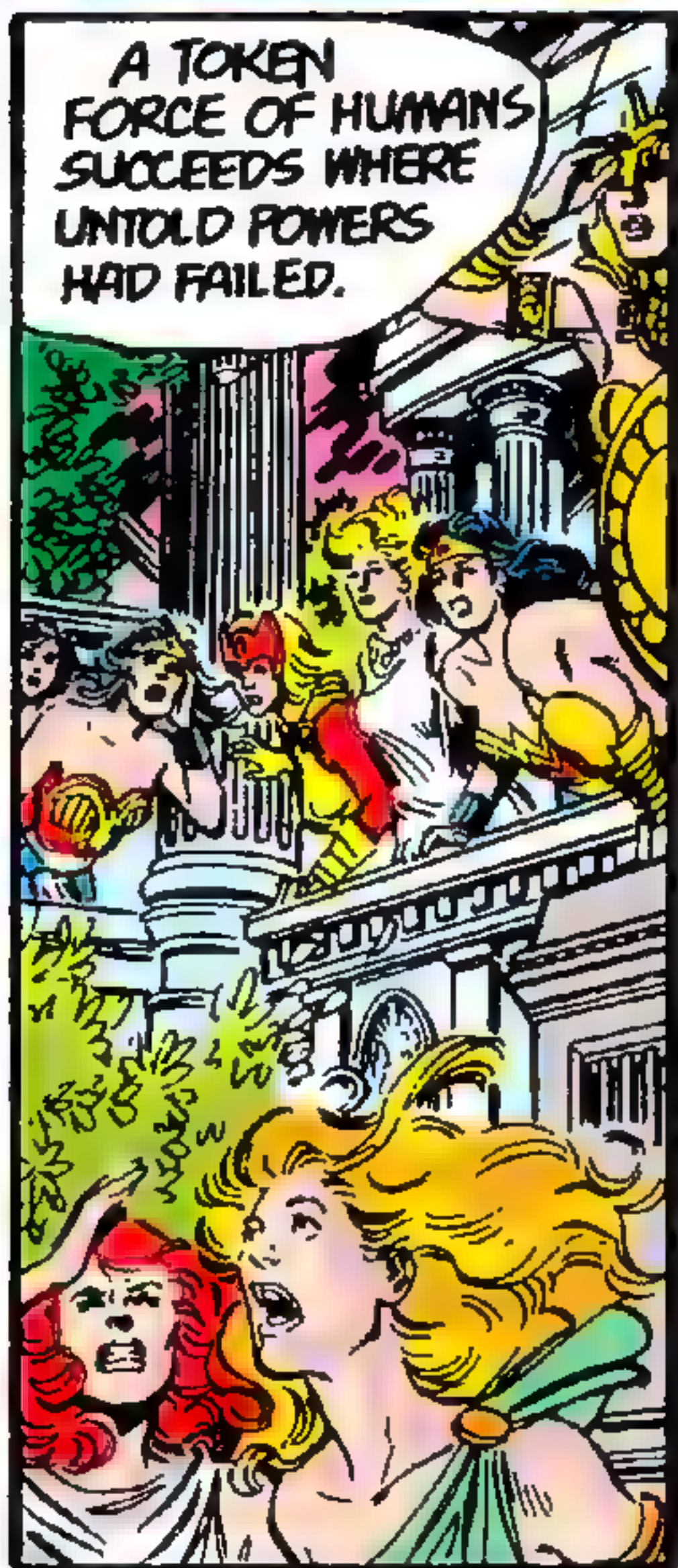
A THOUSAND UNIVERSES BEFORE YOURS PERISHED WITHOUT RESISTANCE. BUT YOU REFUSED TO DIE.

I WAS TO ENLARGE MY ANTIMATTER UNIVERSE, TO HAVE IT REPLACE ALL OTHER UNIVERSES...

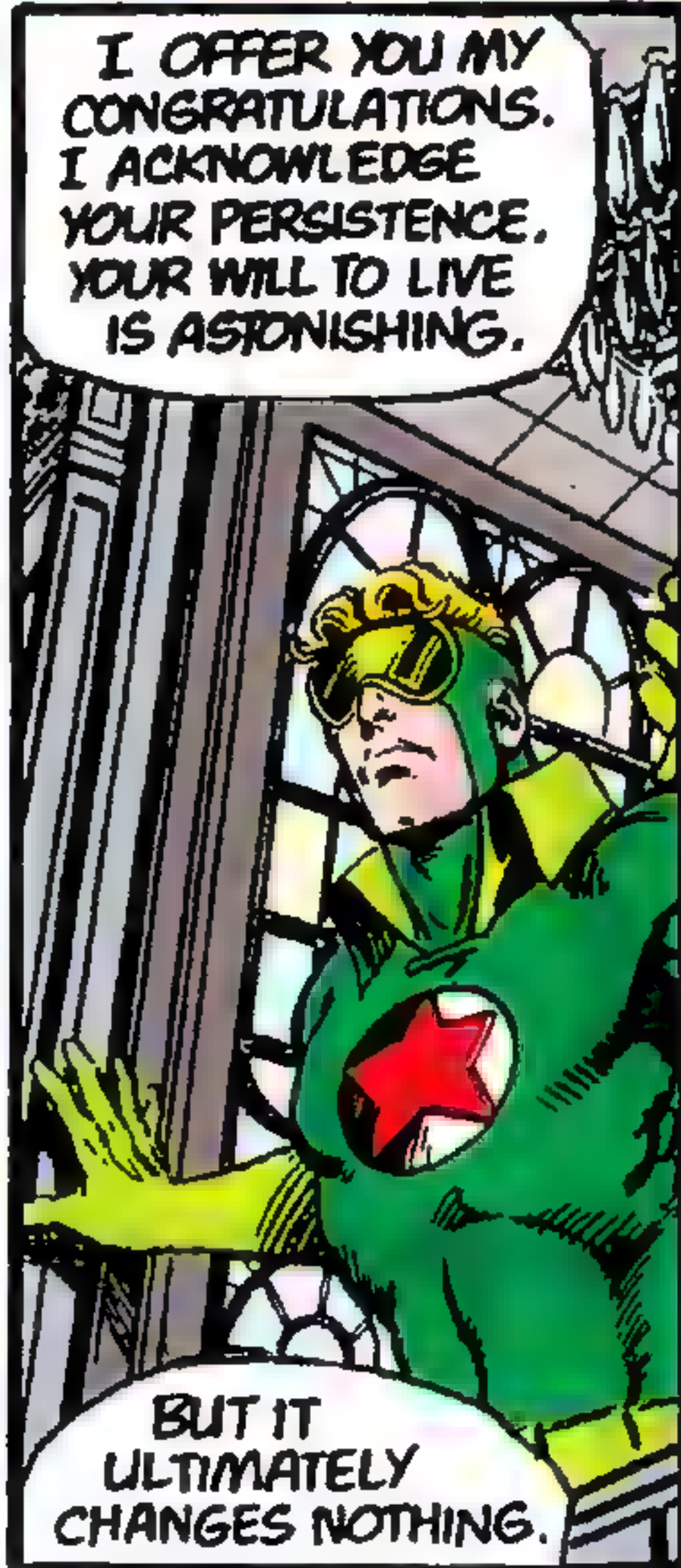
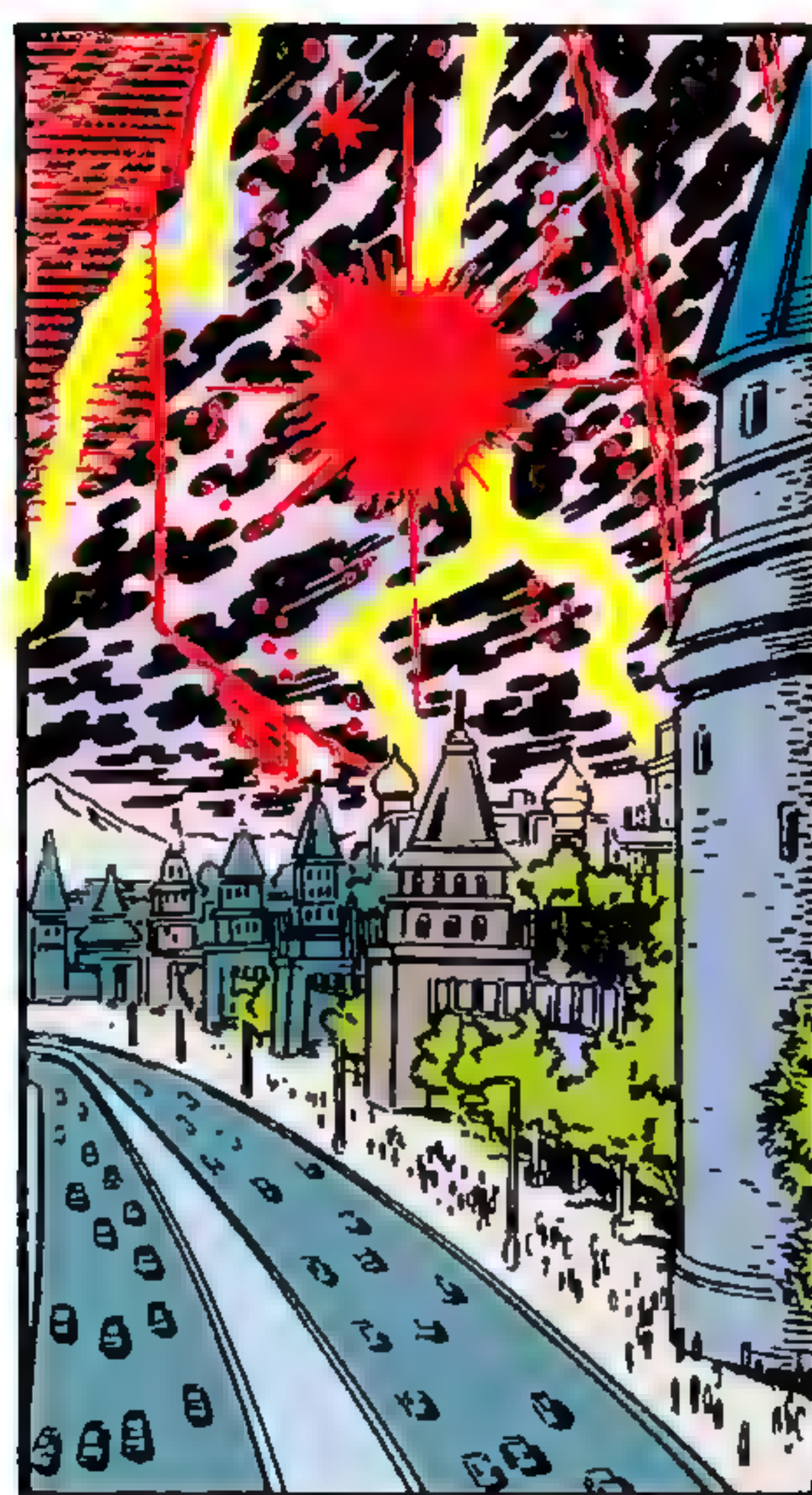
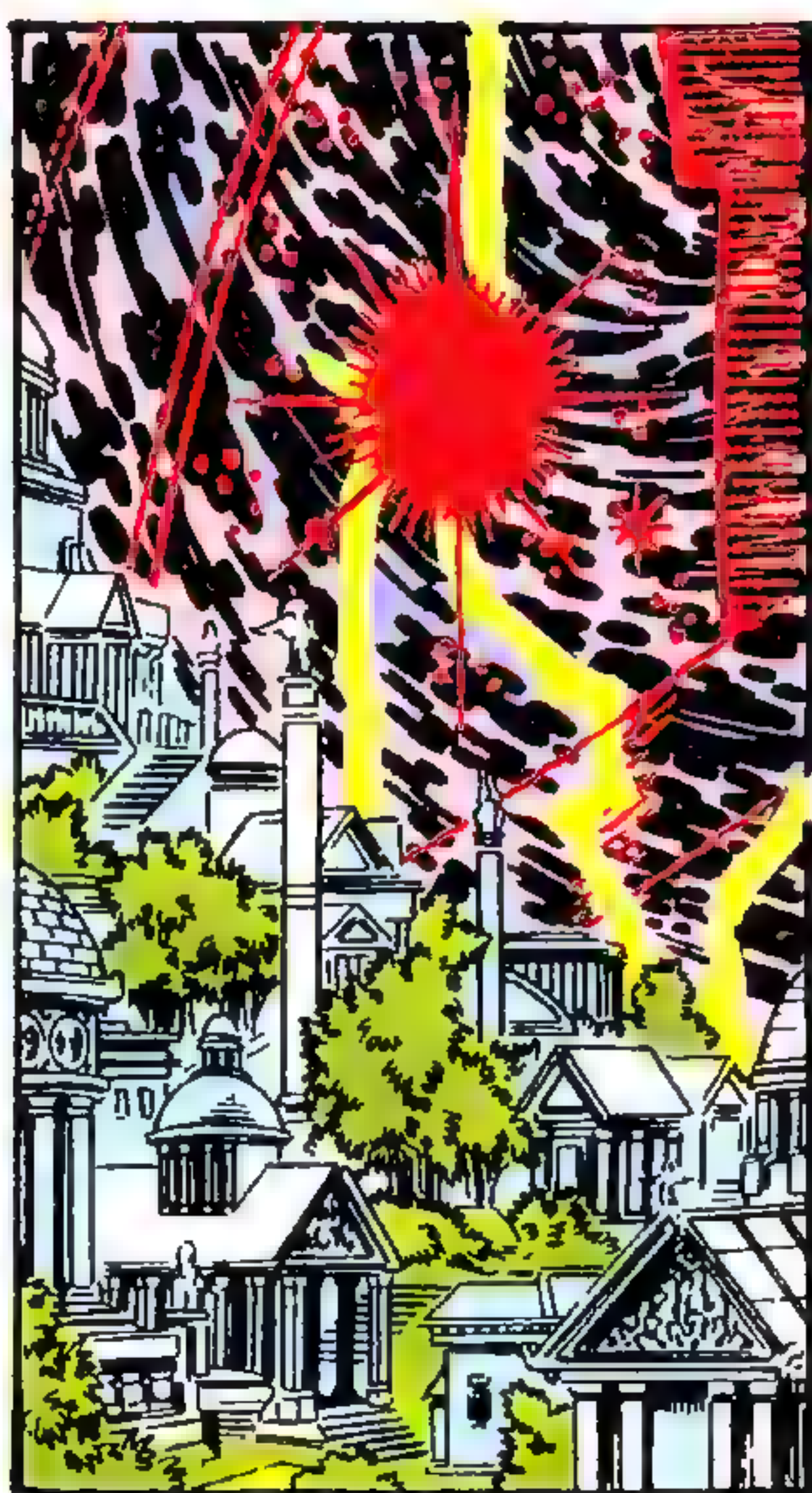


A THOUSAND MEANINGLESS VICTORIES BECAUSE YOU RESISTED MY EFFORTS TO DESTROY YOU.

ONE UNIVERSE... PROTECTED BY ONE SMALL AND TERRIBLY INSIGNIFICANT LITTLE WORLD.

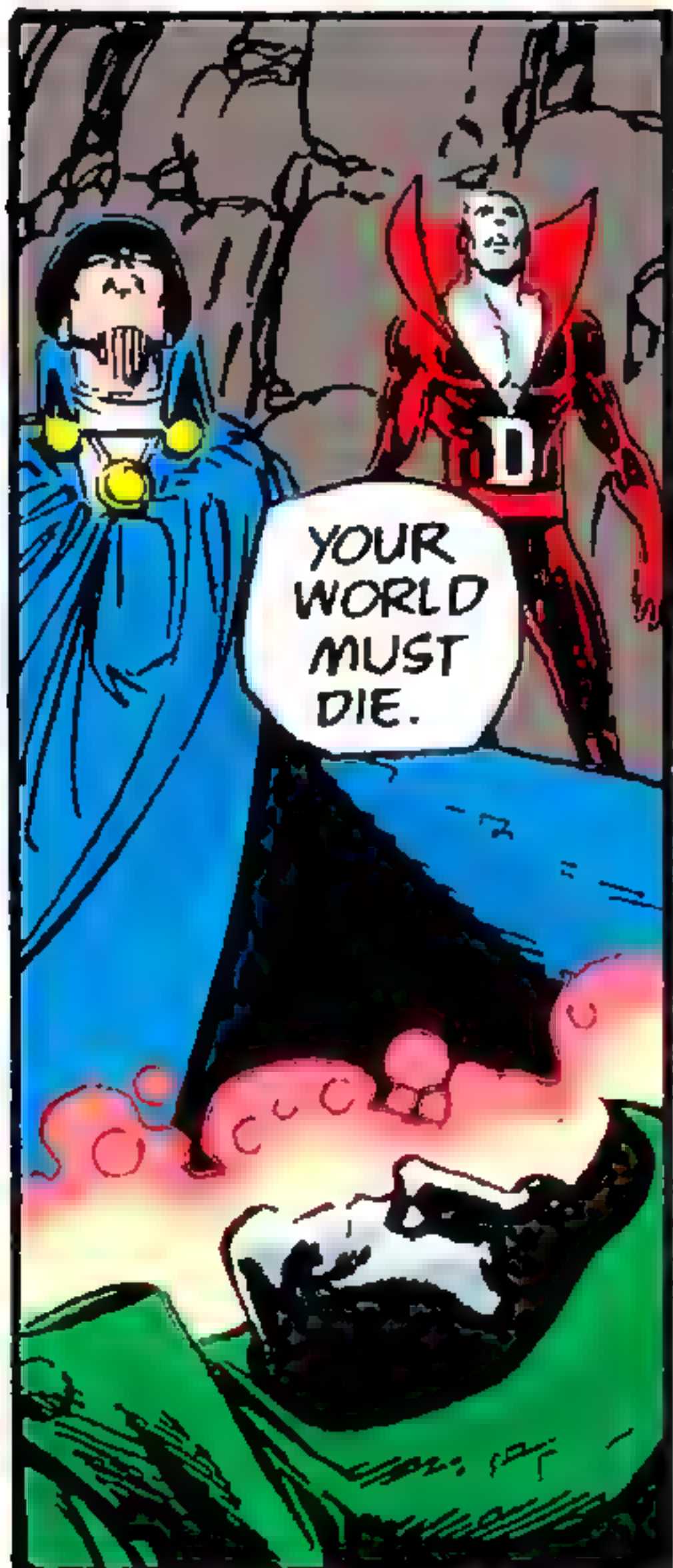


A TOKEN FORCE OF HUMANS SUCCEEDS WHERE UNTOLD POWERS HAD FAILED.



I OFFER YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS. I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR PERSISTENCE. YOUR WILL TO LIVE IS ASTONISHING.

BUT IT ULTIMATELY CHANGES NOTHING.



YOUR WORLD MUST DIE.



AS YOUR SUPERGIRL DIED. AS YOUR FLASH DIED. AS SO MANY OTHERS WHO TRIED TO STOP ME DIED.



AND WITH ITS DEATH THERE WILL BE NONE WHO CAN PREVENT MY UNIVERSE FROM REPLACING YOUR OWN.



THE FLASH... HE IS DEAD?

YOU MURDERED THE FLASH...? HOW? WHERE IS HE?



MY WARRIORS
STAIN YOUR WORLD
WITH BLOOD!



THEY ARE EVERYWHERE,
AND THEY CANNOT BE
STOPPED!



HEAR THE DEATH
KNELL, HUMANS. IT
IS THE LAST SOUND
YOU SHALL EVER
HEAR!



HE'S GONE! AND THE
SKY'S TURNED BLACK.

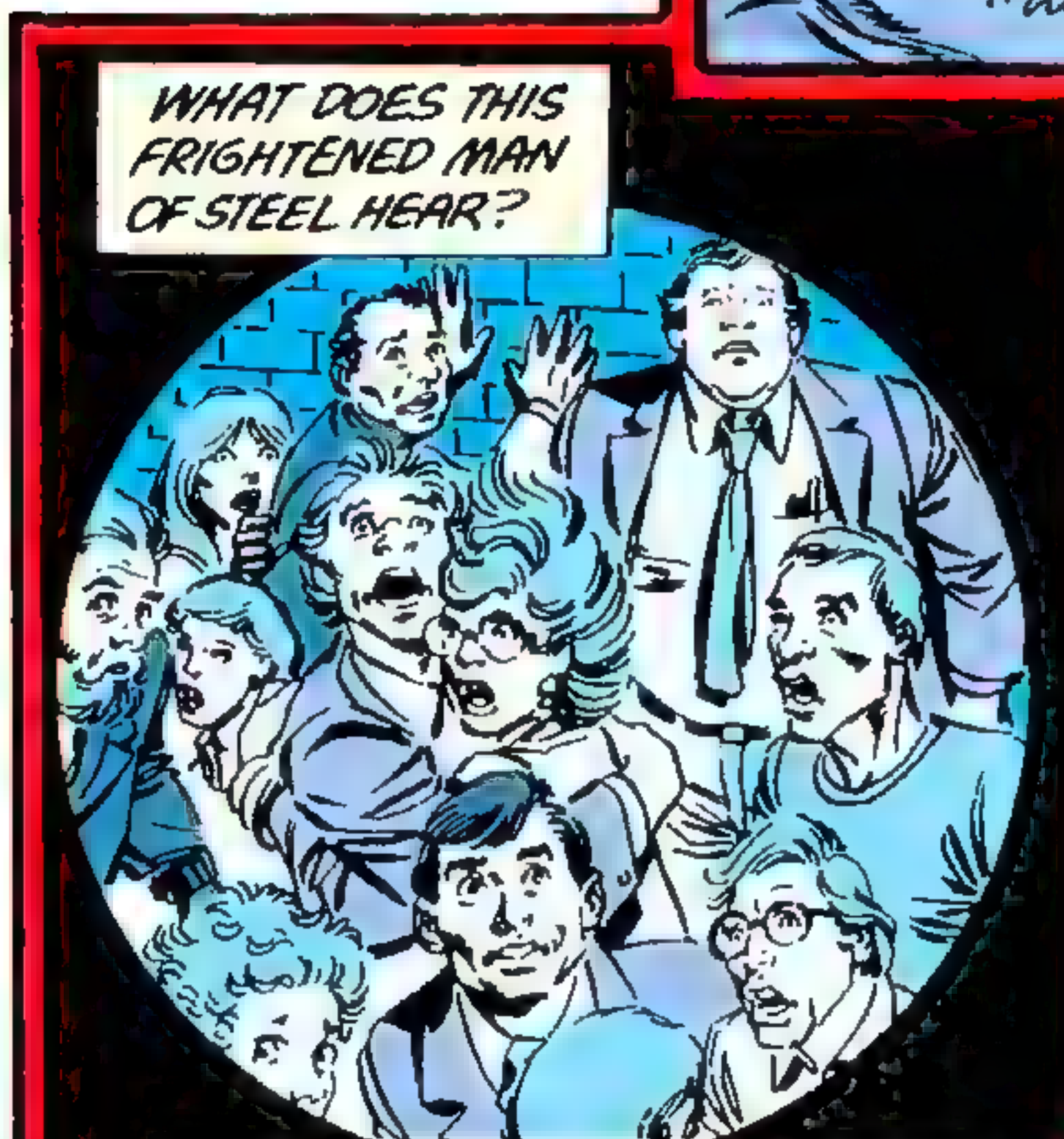
BUT WHAT DID HE
MEAN HIS WARRIORS
ARE ALREADY
HERE?

GREAT SCOTT! USE YOUR
TELESCOPIC VISION. LOOK
AT THE CITIES... ANY
CITY.

THE SCREAMS,
KAL-EL... PLEADING...
PRAYING... PANICKING.
WHY DO I HAVE TO
HAVE SUPER-HEARING?



TH-THIS IS
TOO MUCH
TO BEAR!



WHAT DOES THIS
FRIGHTENED MAN
OF STEEL HEAR?

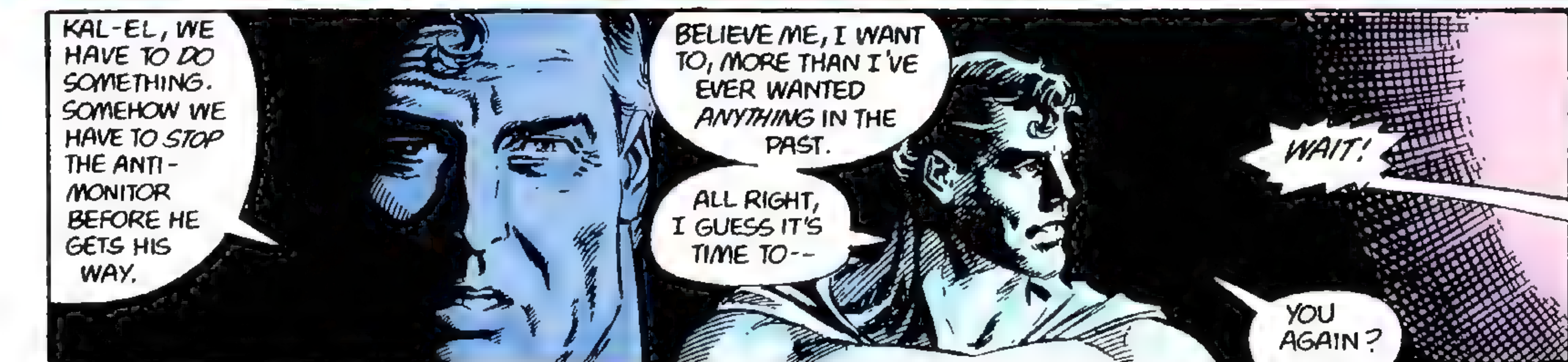


HE BREATHES IN SHARP AND DEEP,
FORCING HIS UNEXPECTED PANIC
TO SUBSIDE...



A SOLEMN QUIET BEFORE THE DARKNESS
SPREADS... A SOMBER, FUNERAL SILENCE...

...EVEN AS FEAR EXPLODES THROUGHOUT THE
CITIES! THROUGHOUT THE LANDS! THROUGH-
OUT THE WORLD!



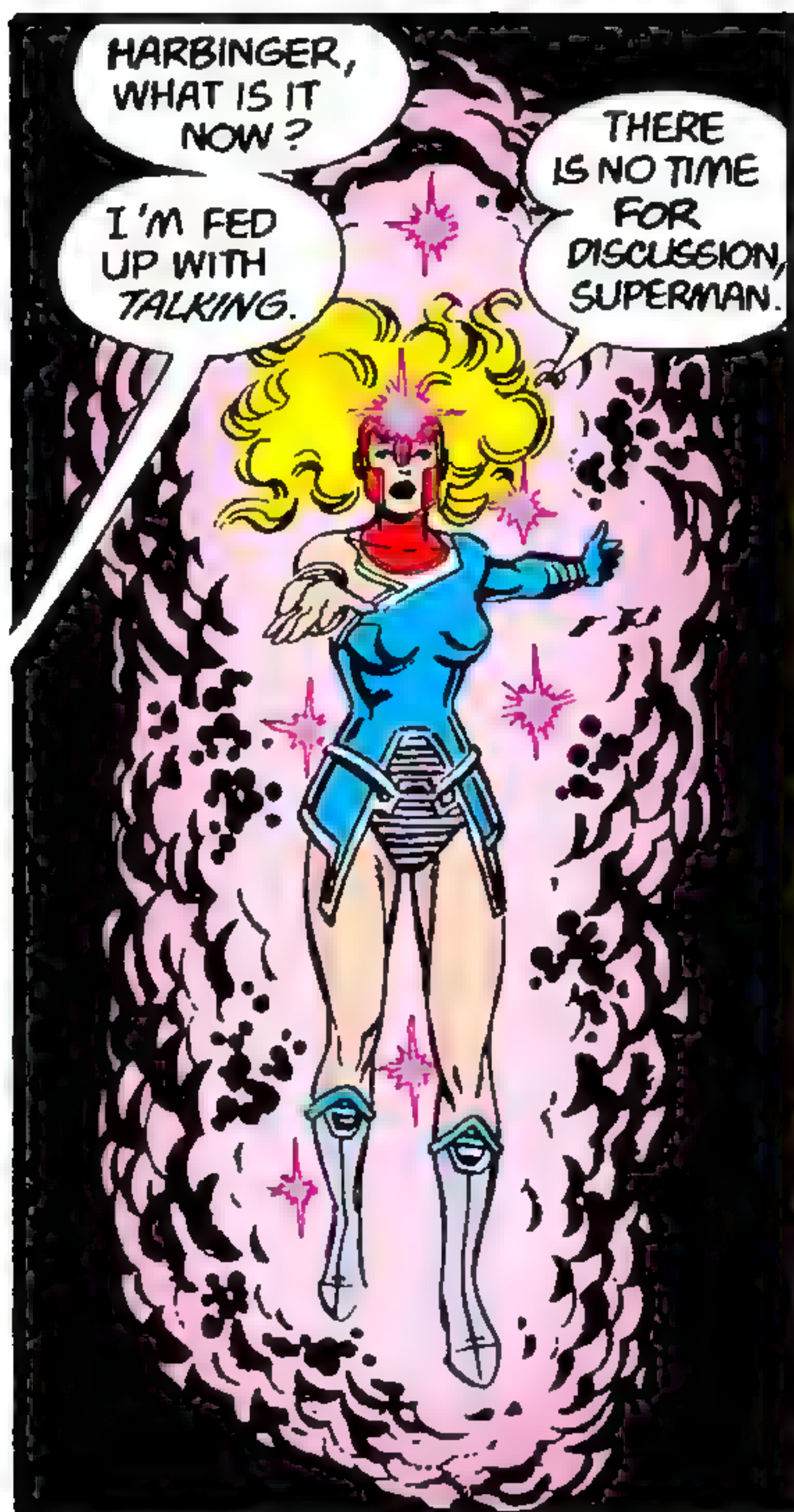
KAL-EL, WE
HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING.
SOMEHOW WE
HAVE TO STOP
THE ANTI-
MONITOR
BEFORE HE
GETS HIS
WAY.

BELIEVE ME, I WANT
TO, MORE THAN I'VE
EVER WANTED
ANYTHING IN THE
PAST.

ALL RIGHT,
I GUESS IT'S
TIME TO--

WAIT!

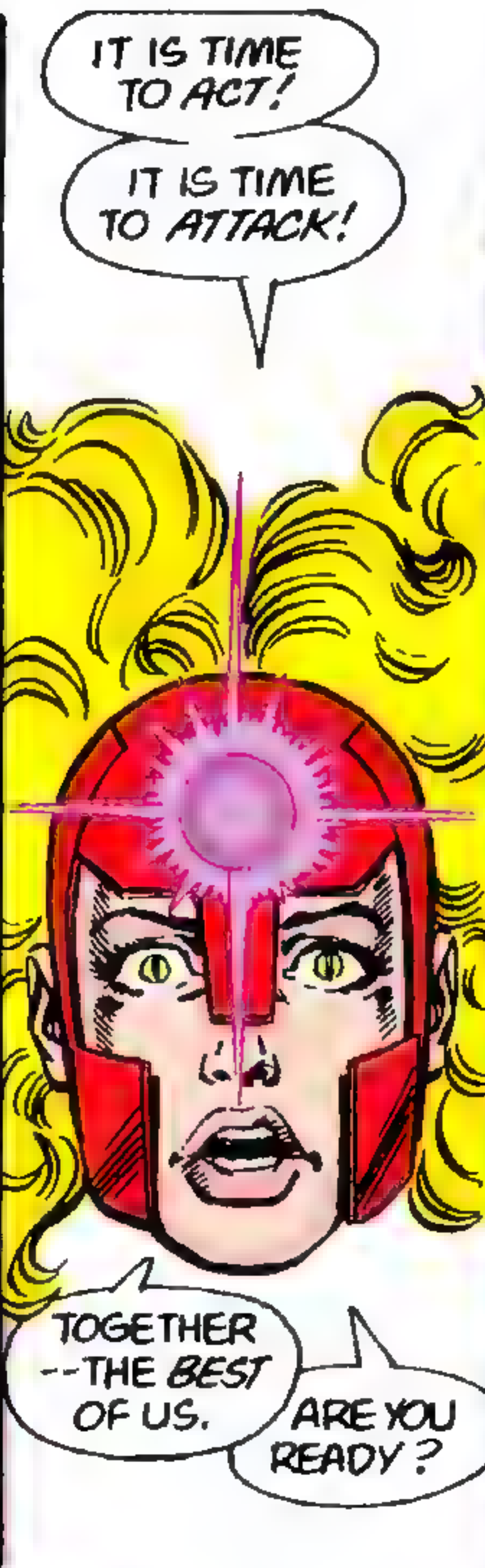
YOU
AGAIN?



HARBINGER,
WHAT IS IT
NOW?

I'M FED
UP WITH
TALKING.

THERE
IS NO TIME
FOR
DISCUSSION,
SUPERMAN.



IT IS TIME
TO ACT!

IT IS TIME
TO ATTACK!

TOGETHER
--THE BEST
OF US.

ARE YOU
READY?



ARE YOU CRAZY? I'VE
BEEN READY SINCE
BEFORE KARA DIED.

WHATEVER I HAVE
TO DO, WHATEVER
BECOMES OF ME...

...THE ANTI-MONITOR
WILL MEET HIS
END!



THEN BOTH OF
YOU TAKE MY
HAND.

HIS
JOURNEY
TO HELL
BEGINS!



SHE IS THE HARBINGER...
ONCE SHE NEEDED A MACHINE
TO SEPARATE HER BEING
INTO MANY...

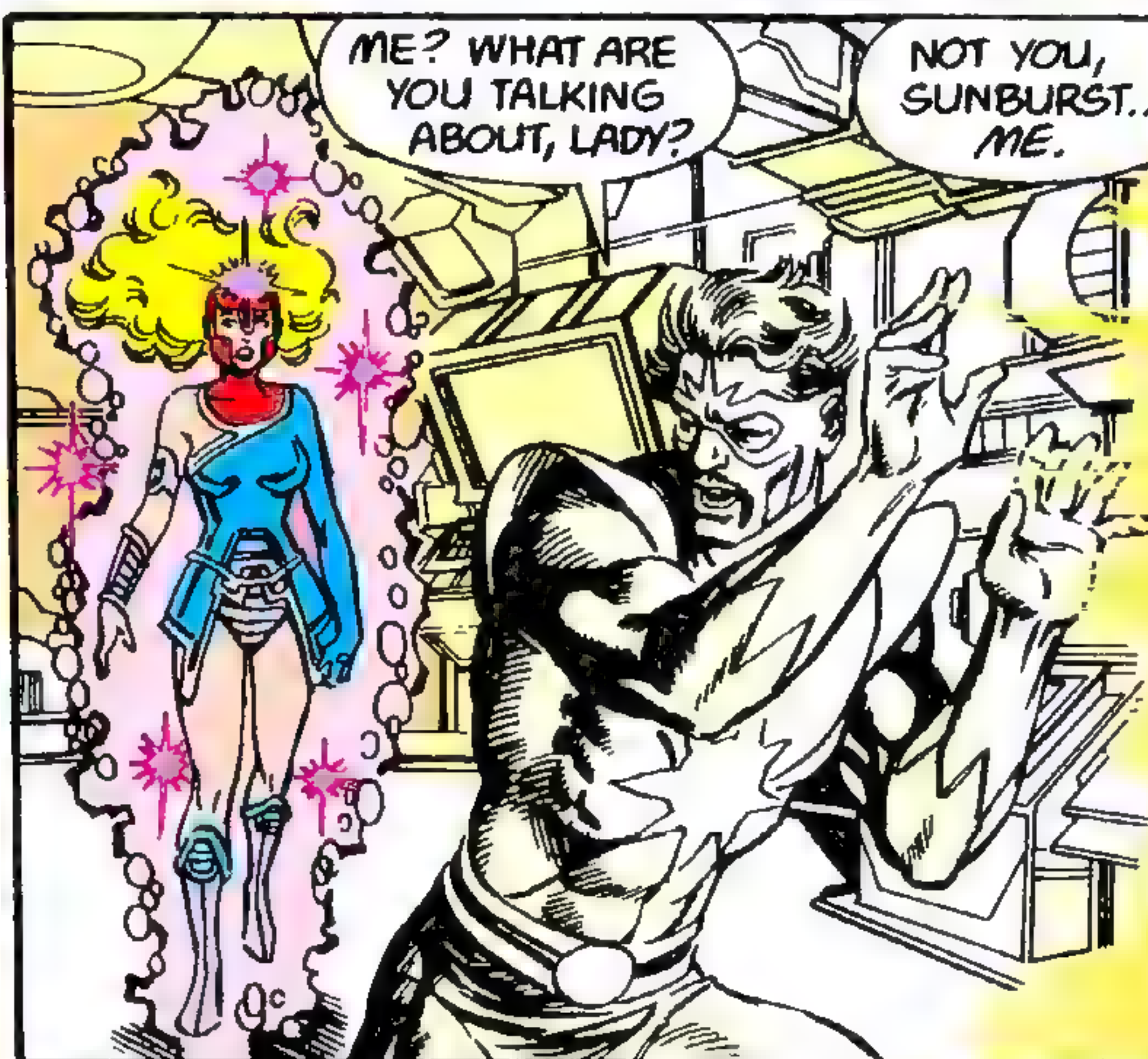


NOW THAT POWER IS
PART OF HER.

WHILE ONE
HARBINGER
TAKES THE
HANDS OF
THE LAST
SONS OF
KRYPTON...

...ANOTHER
SPEEDS ACROSS
HALF A WORLD
TO JAPAN, TO
A SINGLE LIGHT
IN A WORLD-
WIDE SEA OF
DARKNESS.

I HAVE COME
FOR YOU. I
NEED YOU.



ME? WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT, LADY?

NOT YOU,
SUNBURST...
ME.

THAT'S HARBINGER... SHE'S
HERE TO REMIND ME HOW
I HELPED KILL SUPERGIRL.



I CALLED TO HER...
SHE TURNED AND THE
ANTI-MONITOR
SLEW HER.

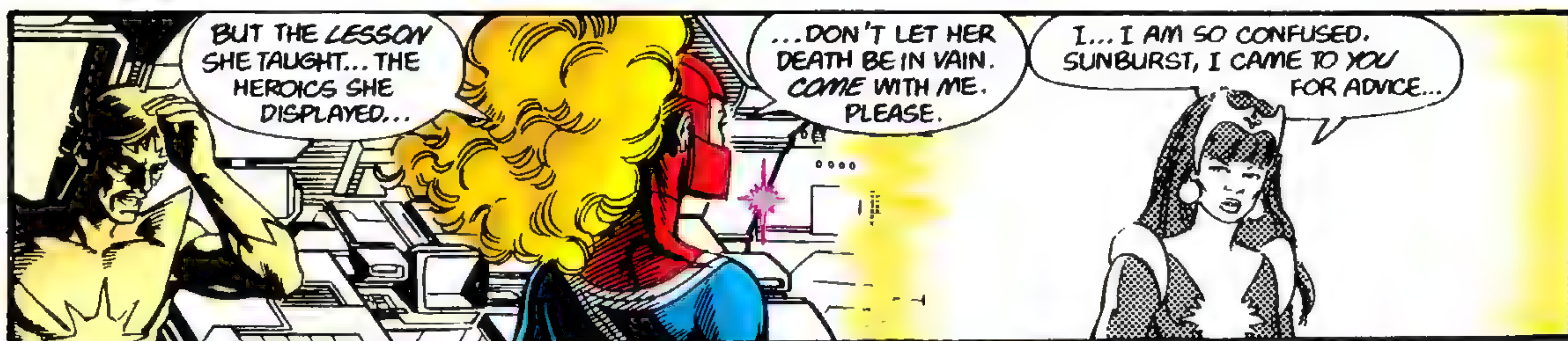
IT'S
MY FAULT
SHE DIED.
MY FAULT!



NO, DR.
LIGHT... THE
BATTLE HAD
ALREADY
KILLED
HER.

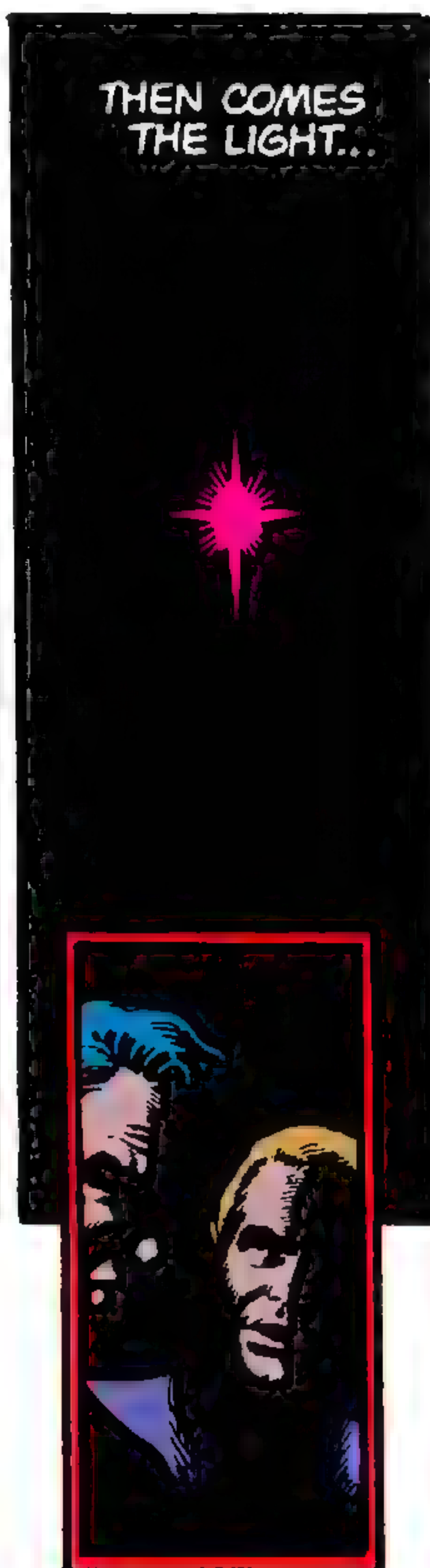


THAT FINAL BLAST
KEPT HER FROM
SUFFERING.



AND THE DARKNESS IS EVERYWHERE...

SO DEEP,
SO RICH,
SO COLD.



...THE DARKNESS IS ALIVE!

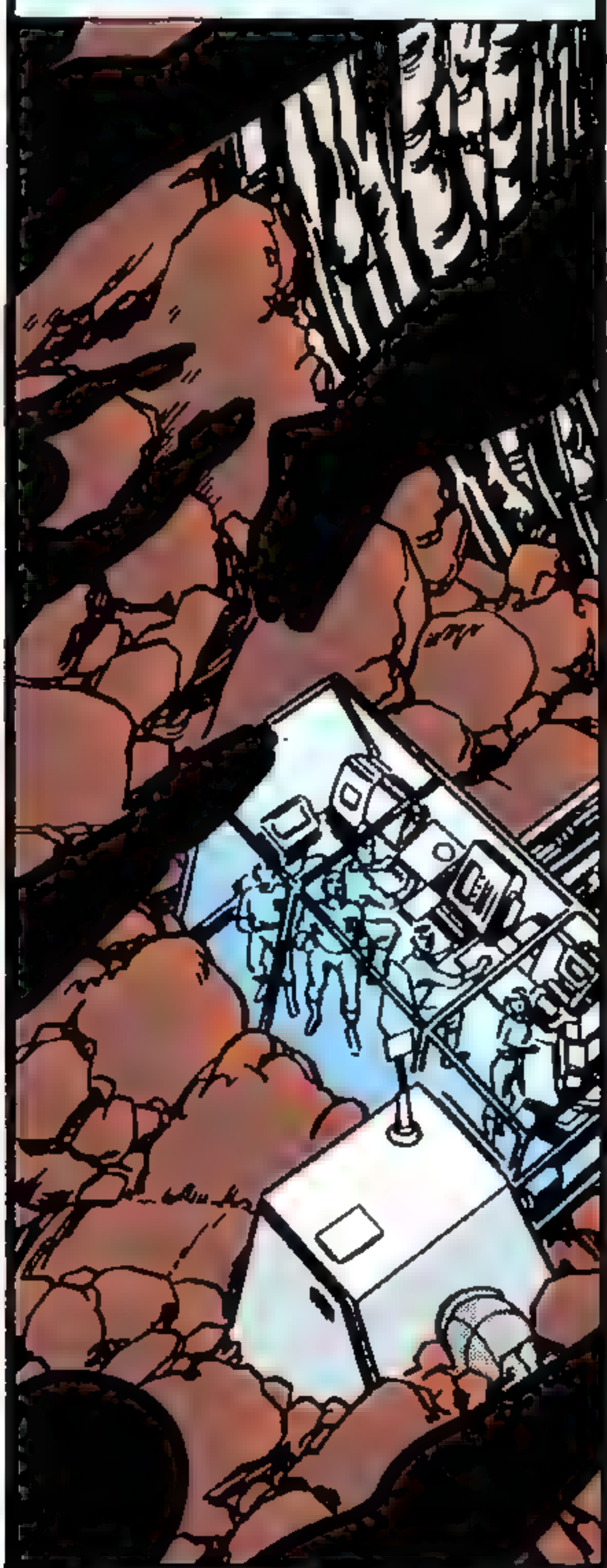


ROCKY, ACE,
PROF, RED--
THE SKY...



THE DARKNESS WAS
MILLIONS OF
THE MONITOR'S
SHADOW-DEMONS!

THE CHALLENGERS OF
THE UNKNOWN HAVE LIVED
THROUGH HORRORS THAT
WOULD TERRIFY THE
BRAVEST OF SOULS...



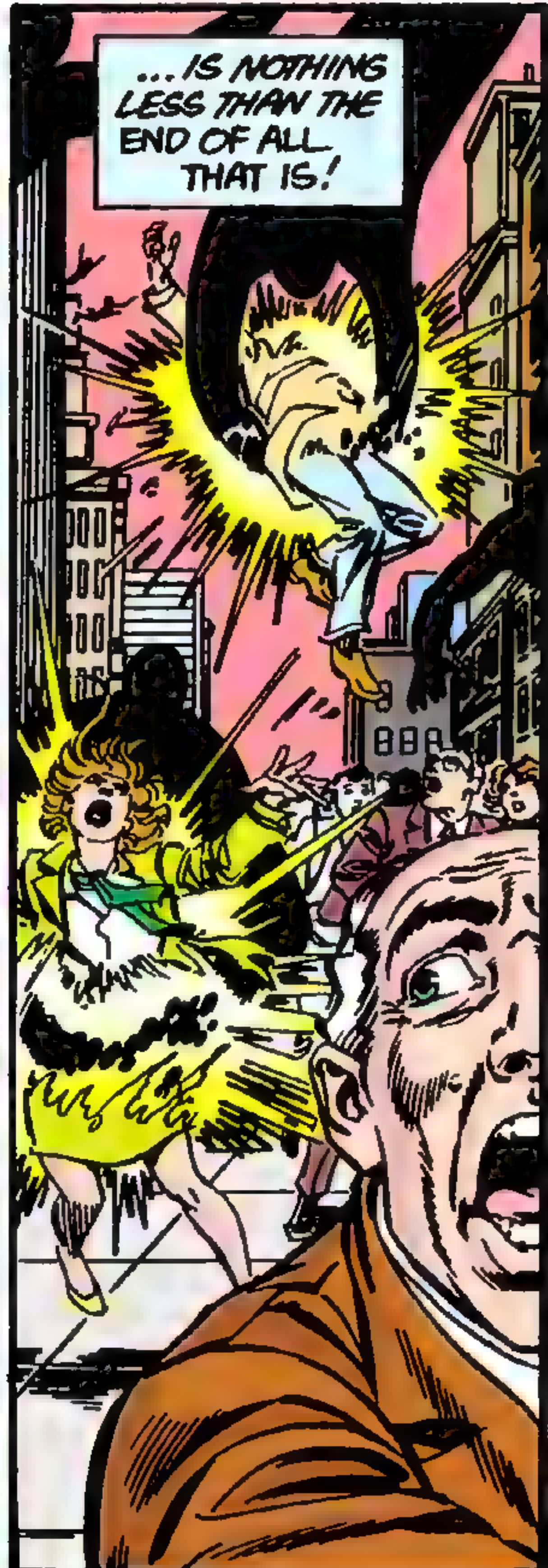
BUT EVEN THEY ARE IN
THE GRIP OF MIND-
NUMBING FEAR AS THEY
STARE INTO THE COLD,
DARK FACE OF DEATH
ITSELF.



AND WHAT THEY SEE
REFLECTED IN ITS BURNING
EYES...

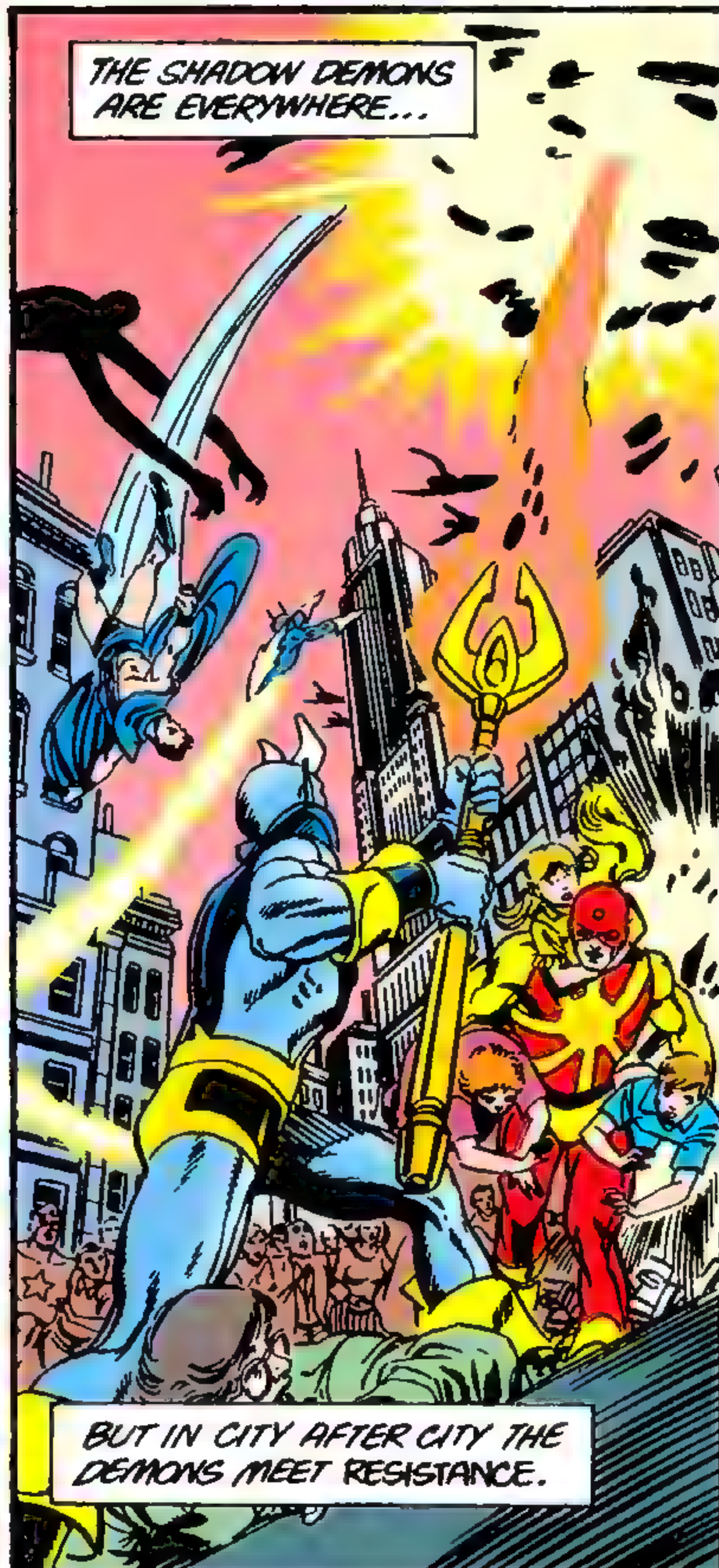


...IS NOTHING
LESS THAN THE
END OF ALL
THAT IS!





IT IS THE SAME
ACROSS THE
WORLD...

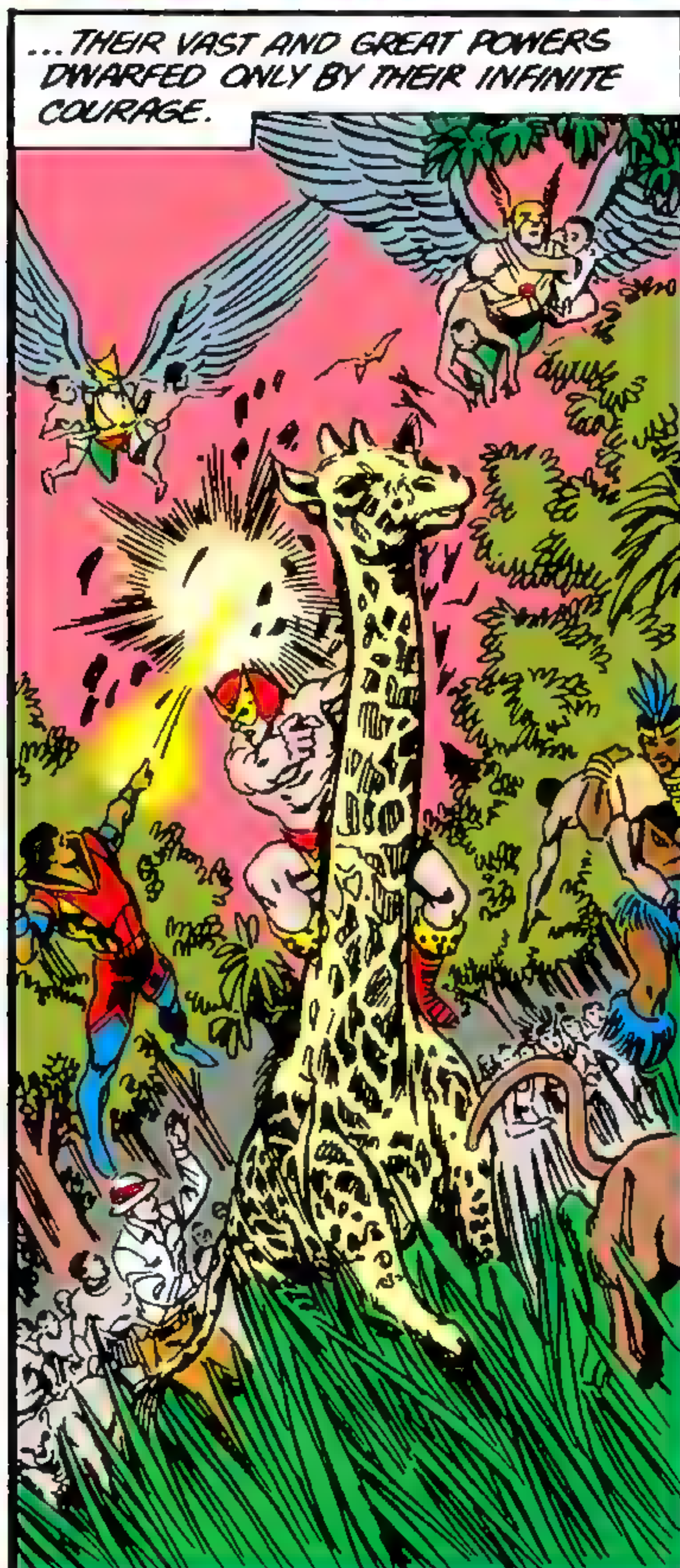


THE SHADOW DEMONS
ARE EVERYWHERE...

BUT IN CITY AFTER CITY
THE DEMONS MEET RESISTANCE.



THE HEROES OF EARTH
HAVE Banded TOGETHER...



...THEIR VAST AND GREAT POWERS
DWARFED ONLY BY THEIR INFINITE
COURAGE.



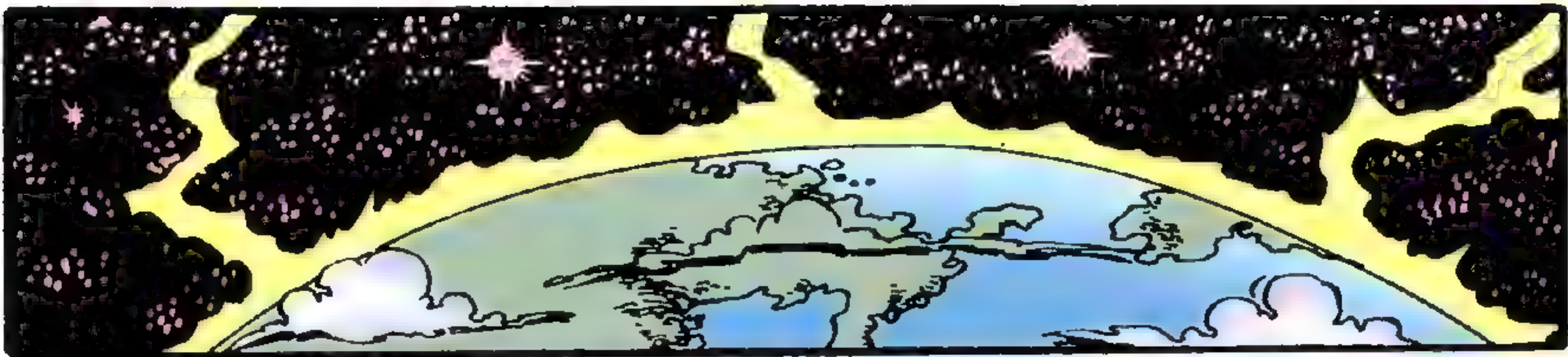
THE SIDES ARE DRAWN.
THE BATTLE IS ON.

AND IN THE BALANCE LIES
MORE THAN THE FATE OF A
SINGLE PLANET CALLED
EARTH.

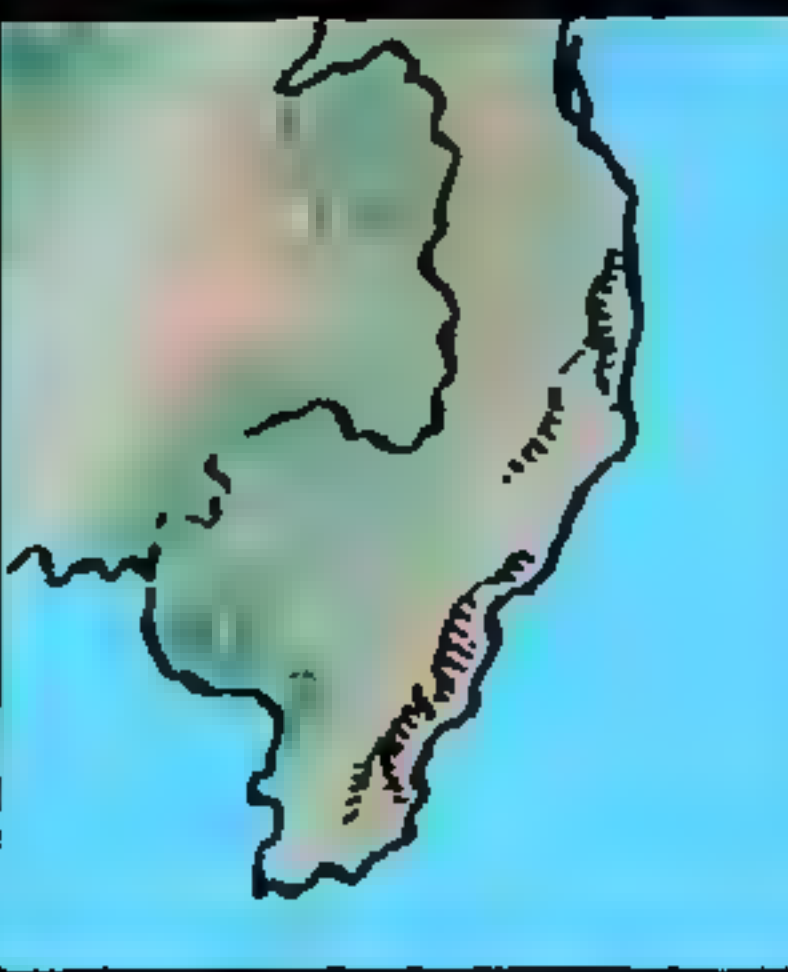
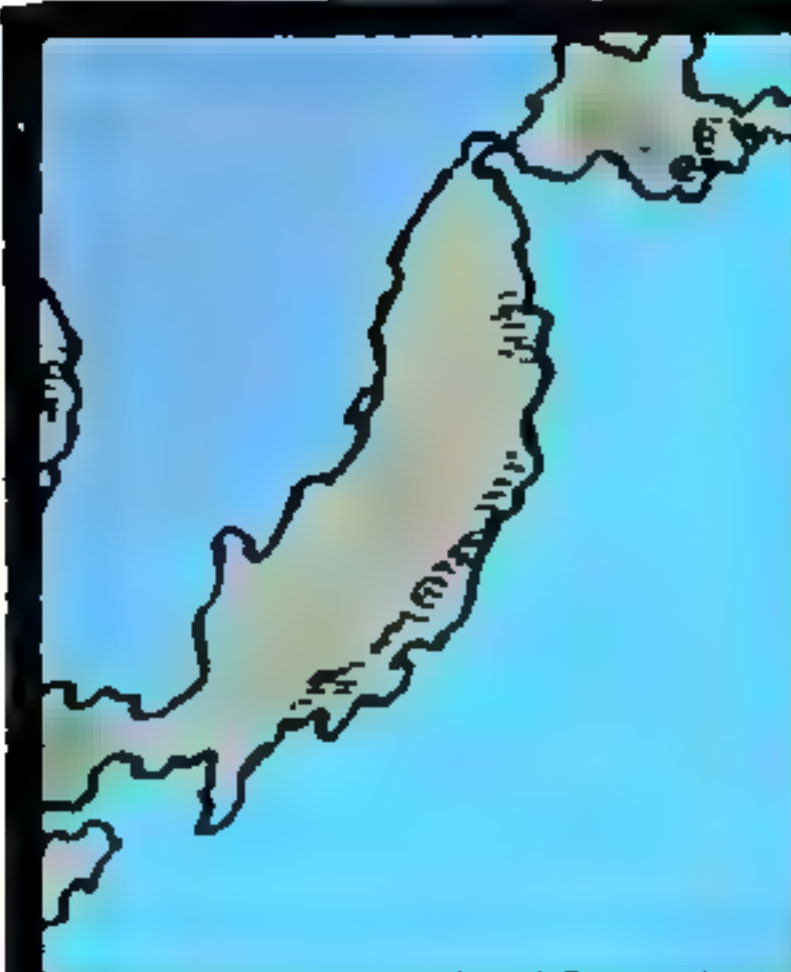


THIS BATTLE IS BETWEEN THE
FORCES OF MATTER AND ANTI-
MATTER, BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARK,
BETWEEN WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT
IS EVIL.

WHILE THE EARTH, FIGHTING FOR ITS LIFE AS WELL AS THOSE WORLDS STILL IN THE POSITIVE MATTER UNIVERSE...



...FINDS THIS IS A WAR WITHOUT BOUNDARIES, A WAR THAT IS BEING FOUGHT EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.

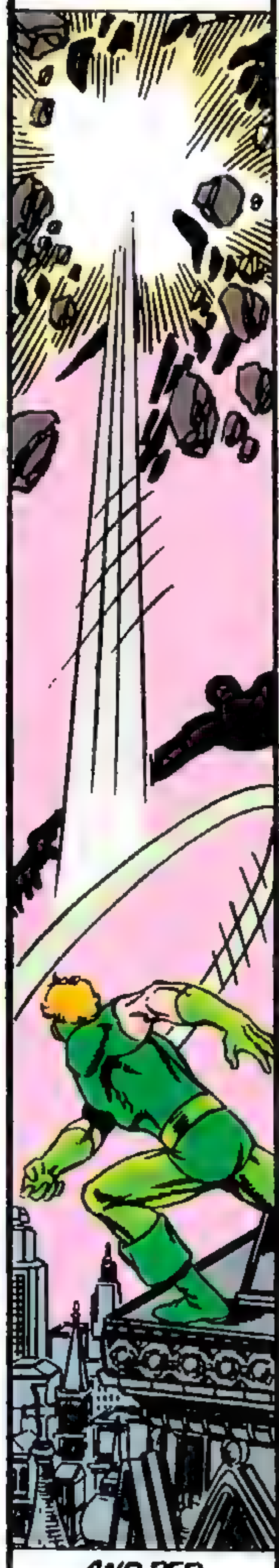


JAPAN IS DEFENDED BY SUNBURST AND THE GLOBAL GUARDIAN KNOWN AS THE RISING SUN.



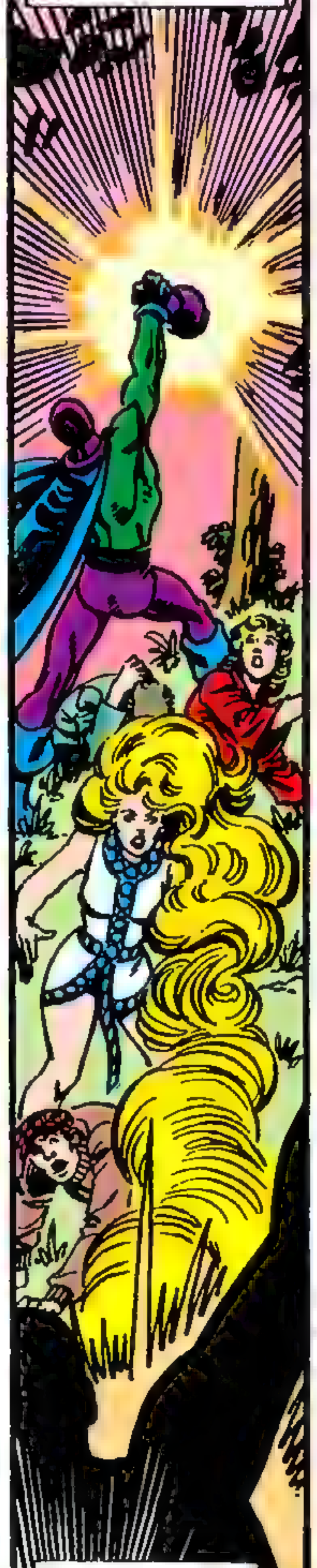
TOGETHER THESE SOLAR HEROES STRUGGLE IN THE SKIES OVER A ONCE-AGAIN DECIMATED TOKYO.

POLITICS MEANS NOTHING TO THE ANTI-MONITOR'S DEMONS. THE SOVIET UNION IS ATTACKED...



...AND RED STAR, HER GREATEST HERO, FIGHTS BACK UNTIL HIS WOUNDS FORCE HIM OUT OF BATTLE.

TWO OTHER GLOBAL GUARDIANS, THE IRISH JACK O'LANTERN AND THE BRITISH GODIVA, PUT THEIR DIFFERENCES ASIDE...



...UNITING TO SAVE DUBLIN FROM DESTRUCTION.

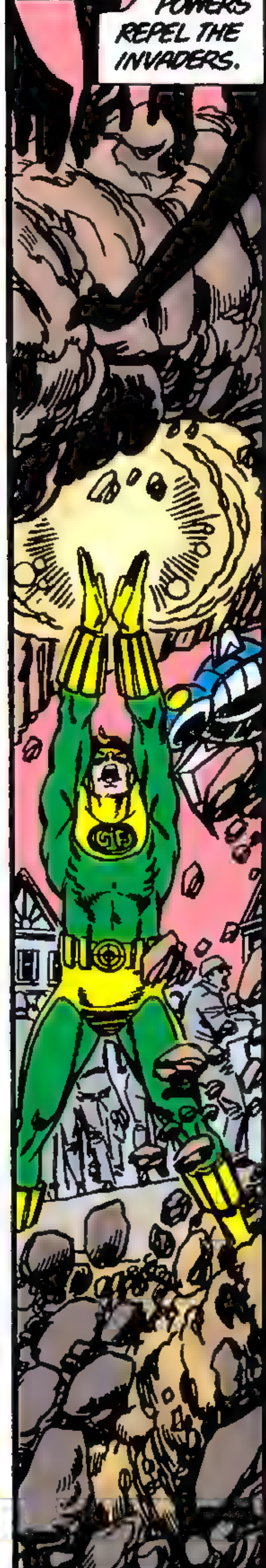
IN VIETNAM, THE BROTHERS THUNDER AND LIGHTNING COMBINE FORCES WITH THUNDERLORD FROM TAIWAN...

THESE THREE HOLD THEIR OWN FAR LONGER THAN EXPECTED.



GEO-FORCE OF THE OUTSIDERS RETURNS TO FIND HIS MARKOVIAN HOMELAND UNDER SIEGE...

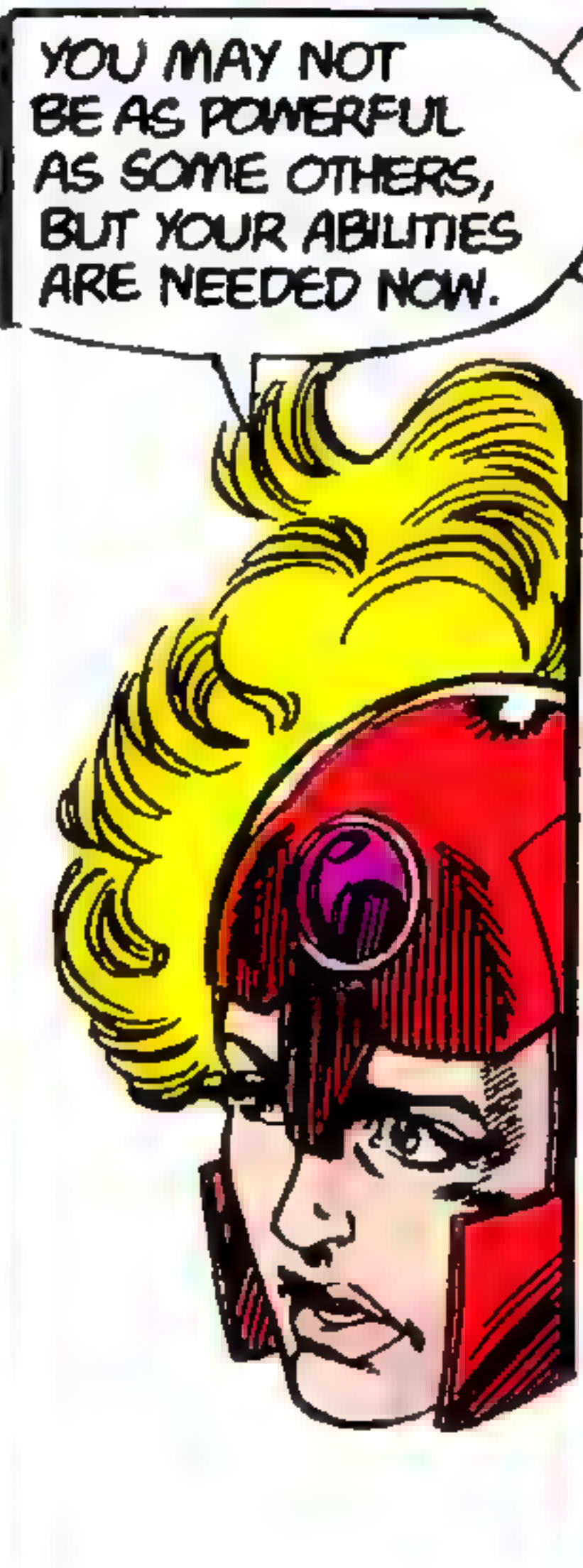
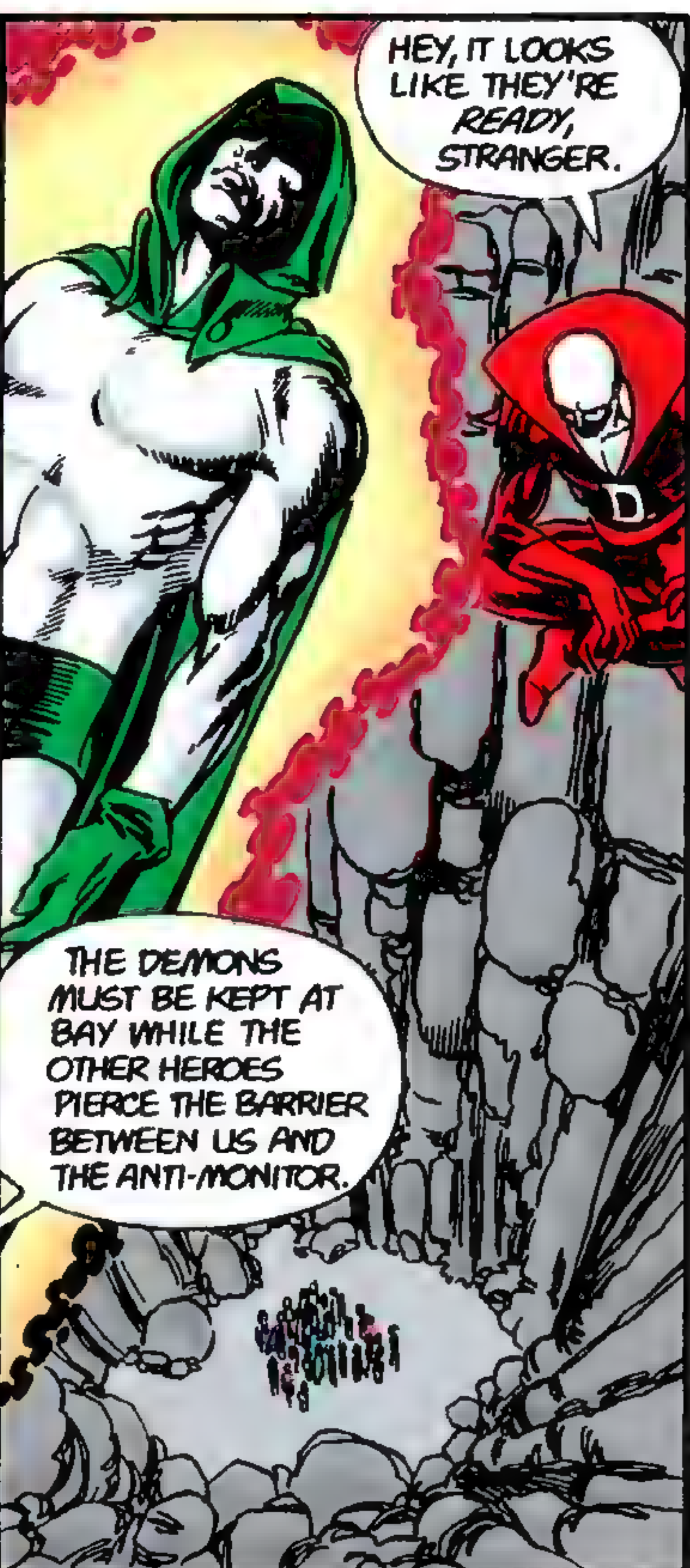
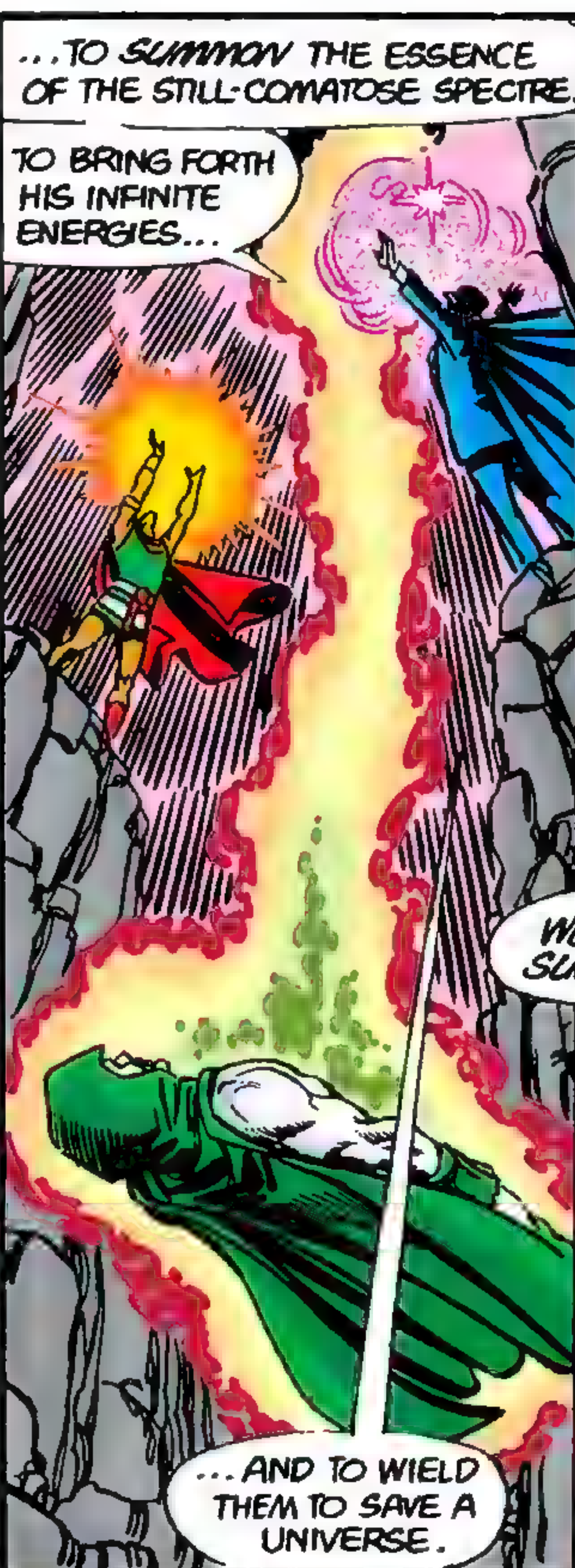
HIS EARTH-BORN POWERS REPEL THE INVADERS.

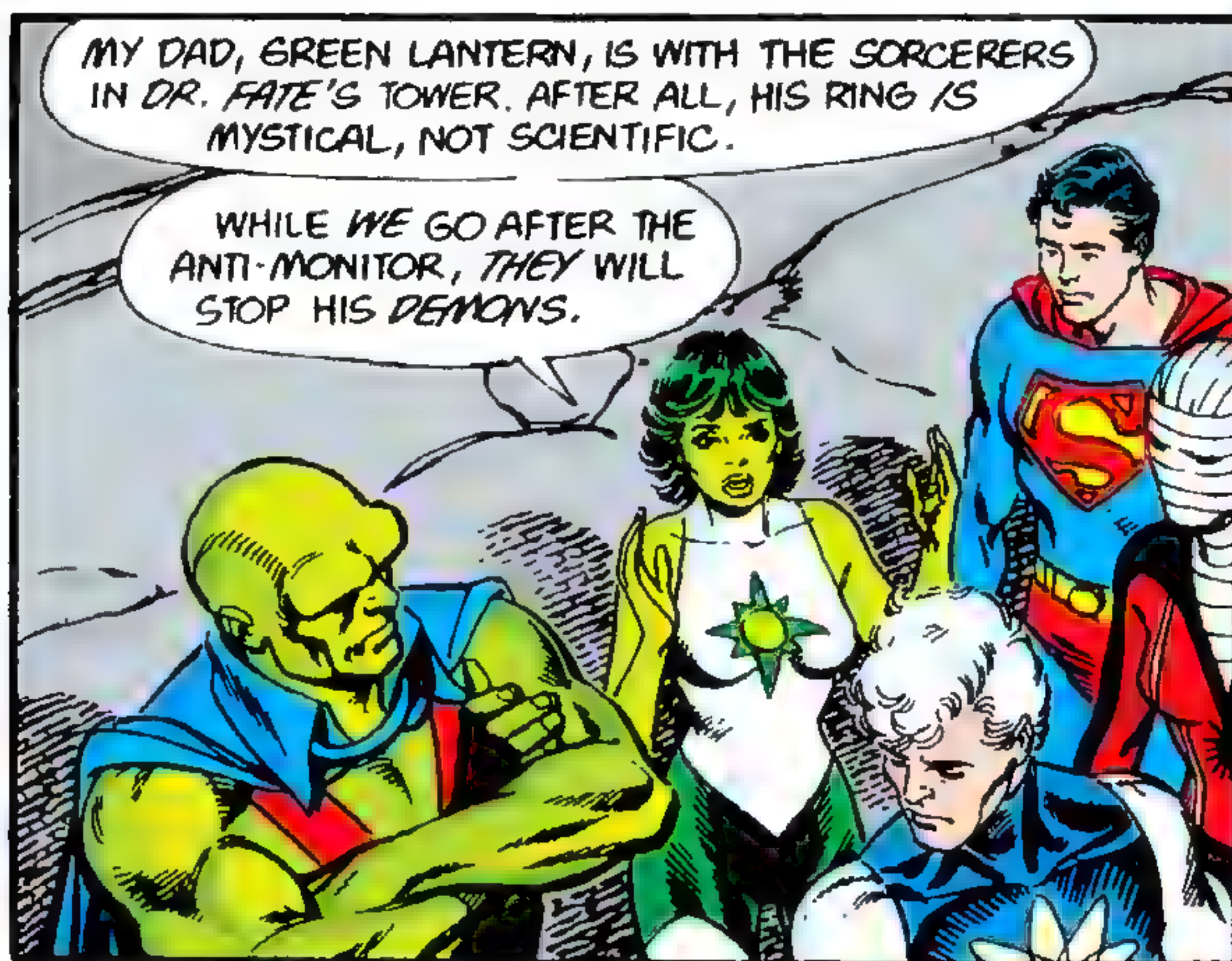


WHILE IN SOUTH AMERICA, GREEN FURY AND THE LIEUTENANT MARVELS BATTLE TO SAVE BRAZIL...



THEY FIND THEMSELVES OVERWHELMED.





MY DAD, GREEN LANTERN, IS WITH THE SORCERERS IN DR. FATE'S TOWER. AFTER ALL, HIS RING IS MYSTICAL, NOT SCIENTIFIC.

WHILE WE GO AFTER THE ANTI-MONITOR, THEY WILL STOP HIS DEMONS.

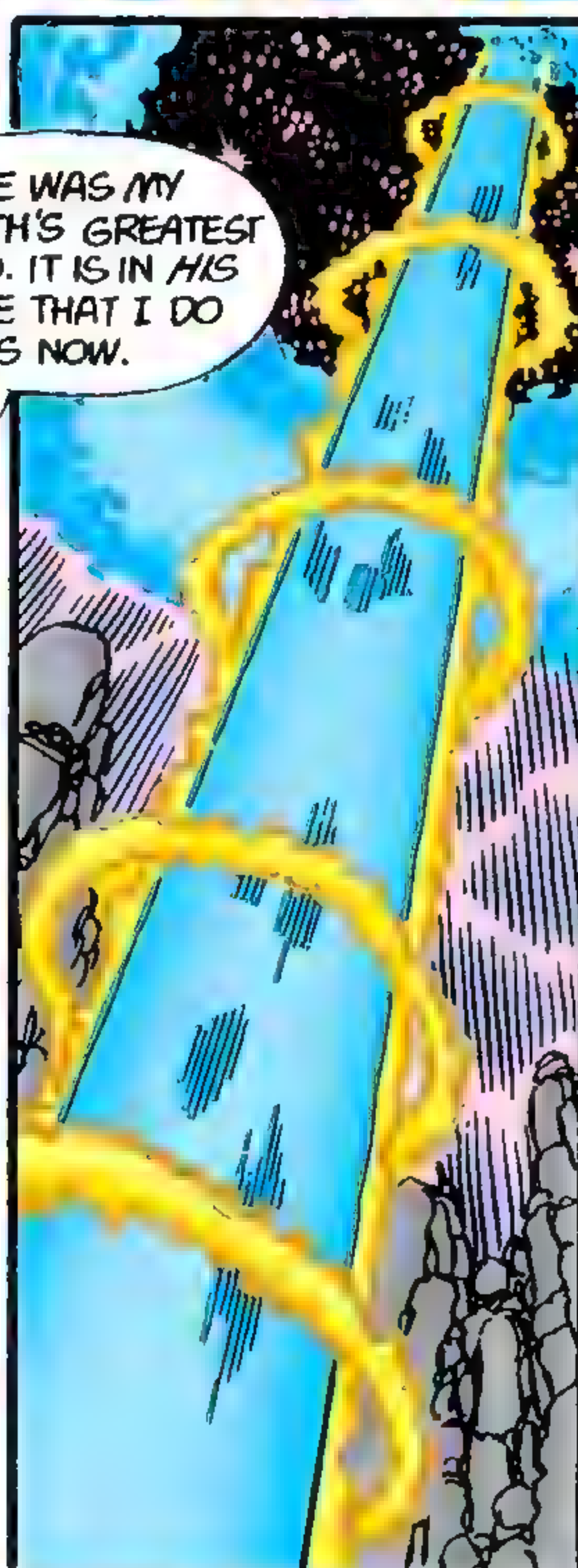


THEN ALL IS READY, AND I WILL SUMMON FORTH AGAIN THE ANTI-MATTER WHICH BURNS WITHIN ME.

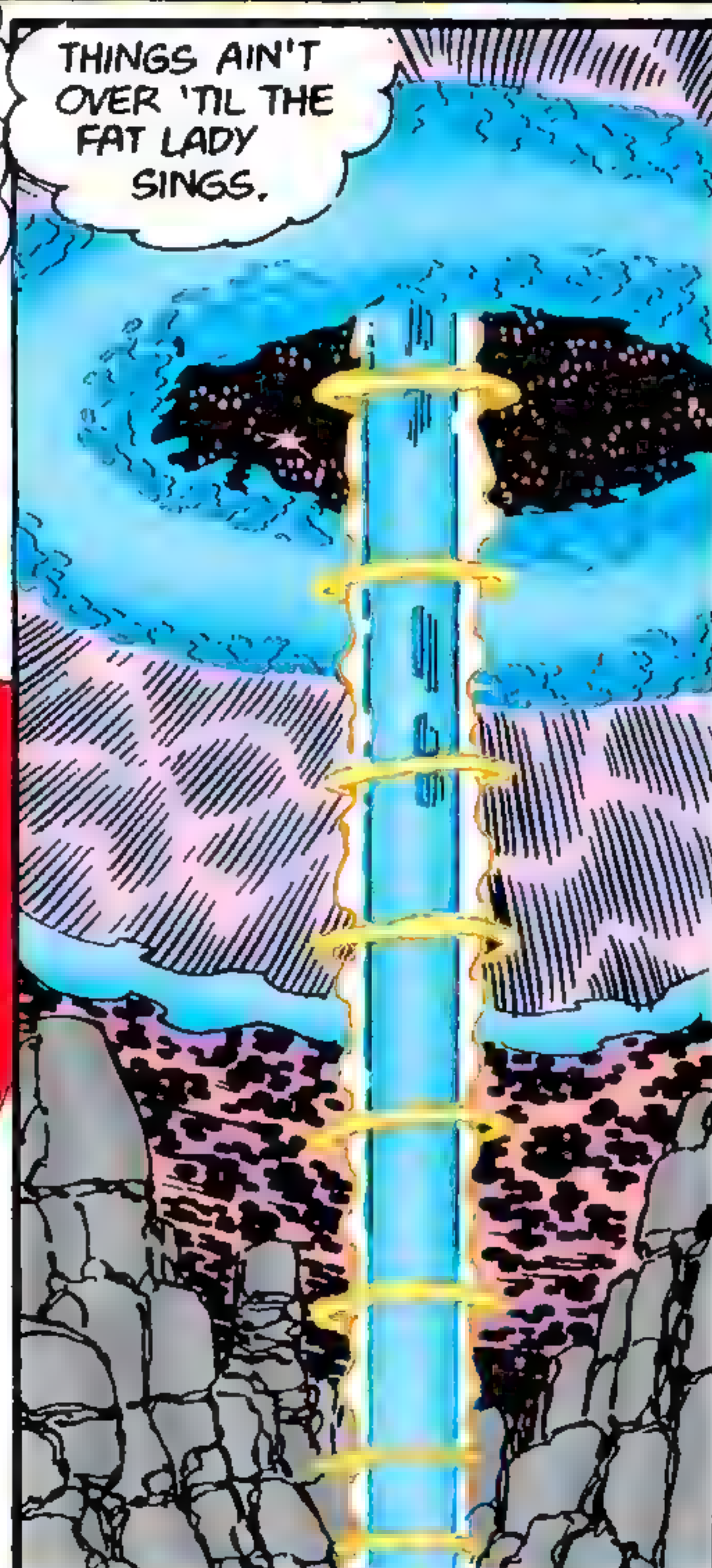


WHEN MY FATHER SAVED ME FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF EARTH-3, HE COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN HOW FORTUITOUS HIS ACTIONS WOULD PROVE.

HE WAS MY EARTH'S GREATEST HERO. IT IS IN HIS NAME THAT I DO THIS NOW.



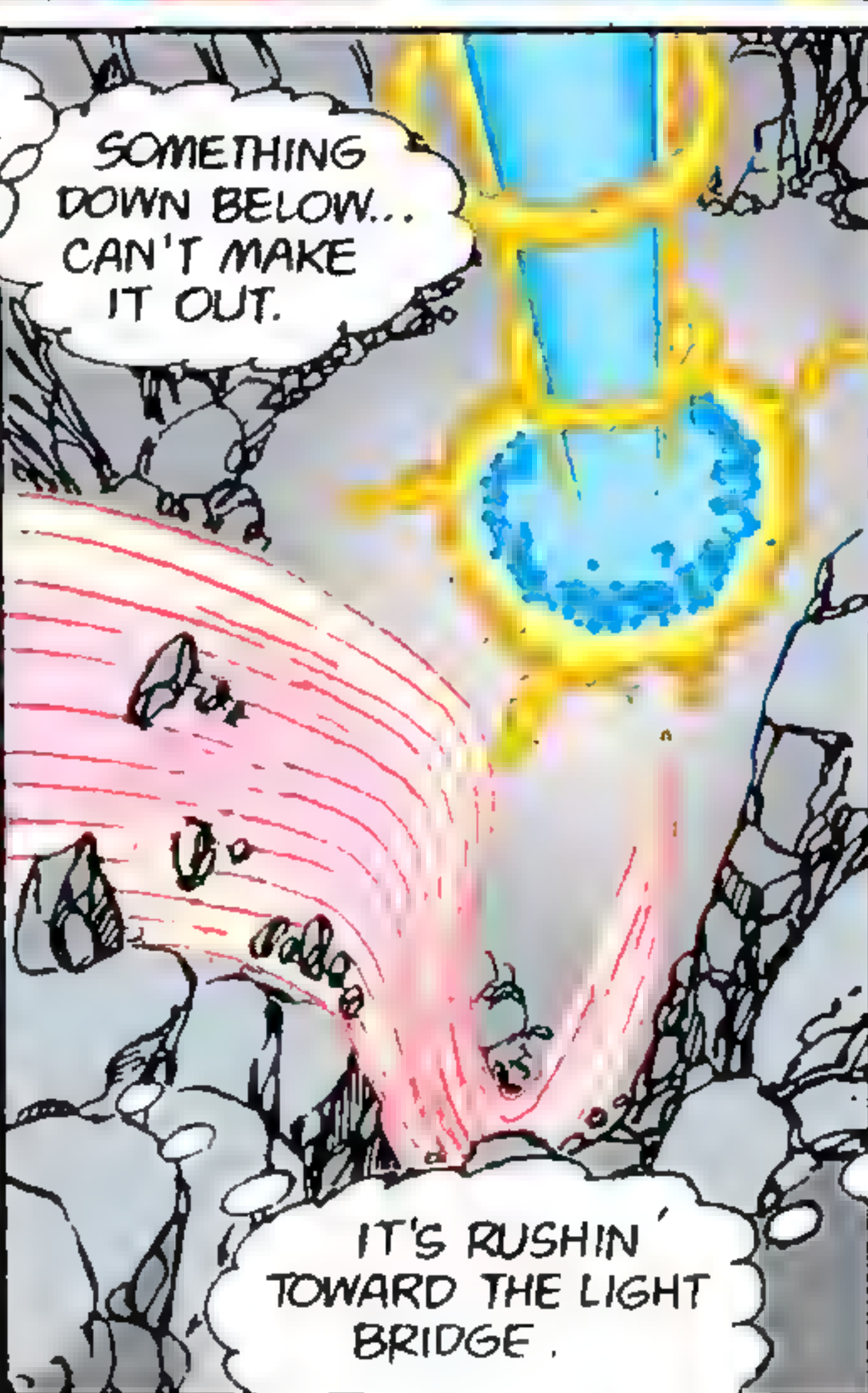
NOT BAD, KID... YOU BROKE THROUGH. BUT DON'T START POURIN' THE CHAMPAGNE YET.



THINGS AIN'T OVER 'TIL THE FAT LADY SINGS.



AN' I AIN'T NEVER SEEN AN OPERA YET THAT ENDED HAPPIER THAN IT BEGAN... HUH?



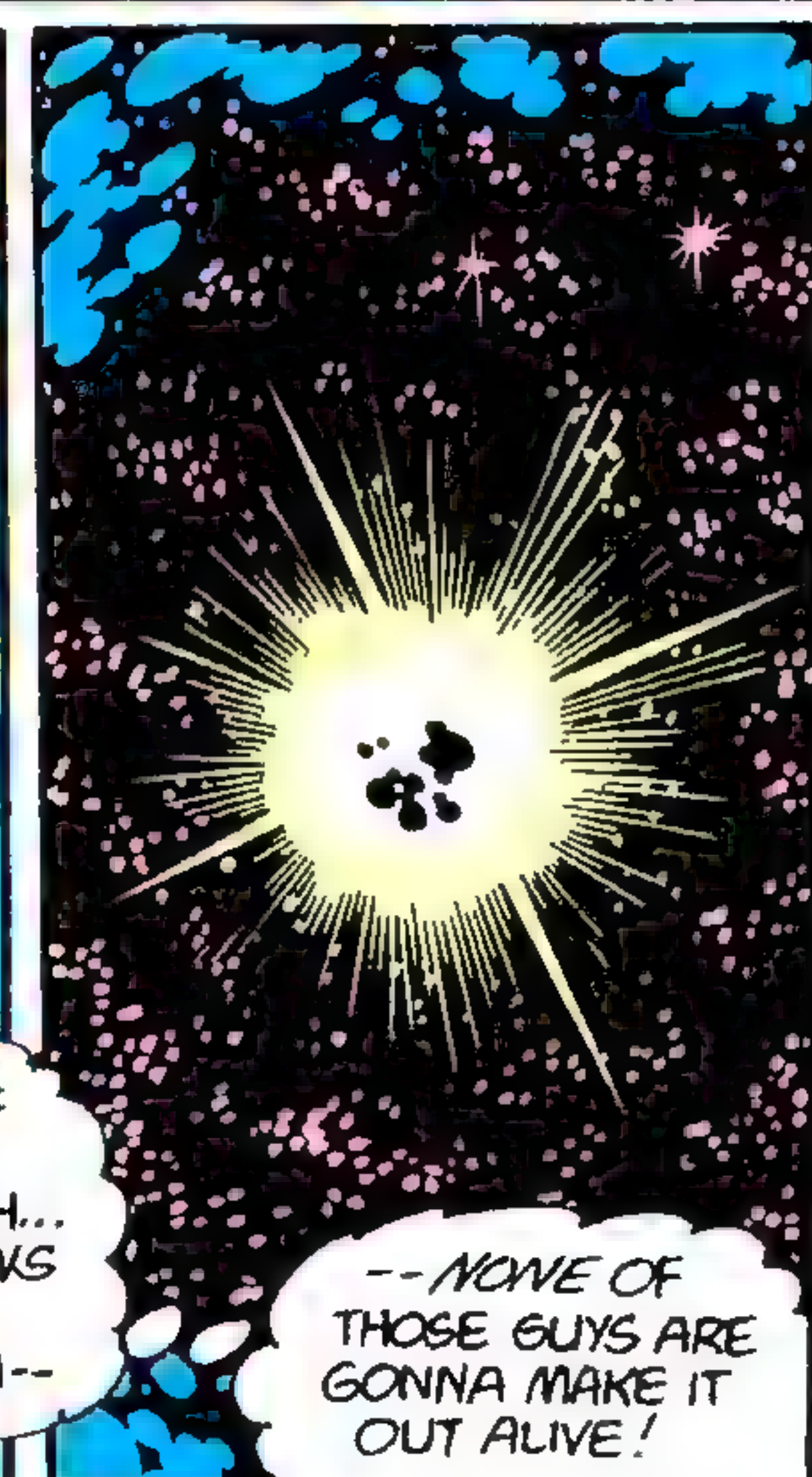
SOMETHING DOWN BELOW... CAN'T MAKE IT OUT.

IT'S RUSHIN' TOWARD THE LIGHT BRIDGE.

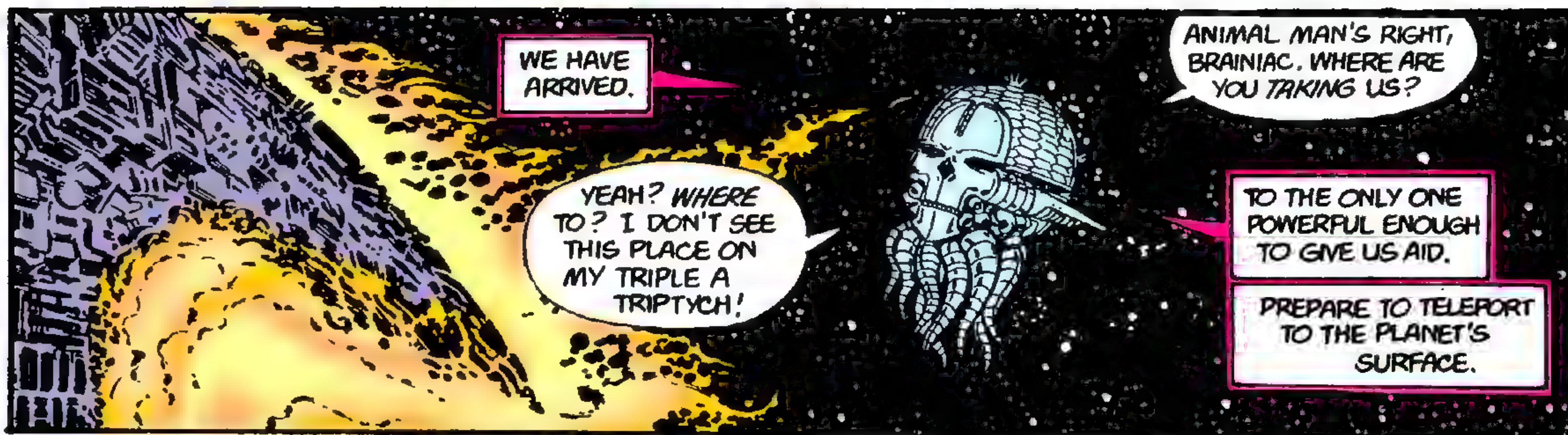


WHAT IS IT? ONE OF THE MONITOR'S DEMONS?

BLAST! IF HE GETS THROUGH... AND WARNS THE BIG KAHUNA--



-- NONE OF THOSE GUYS ARE GONNA MAKE IT OUT ALIVE!



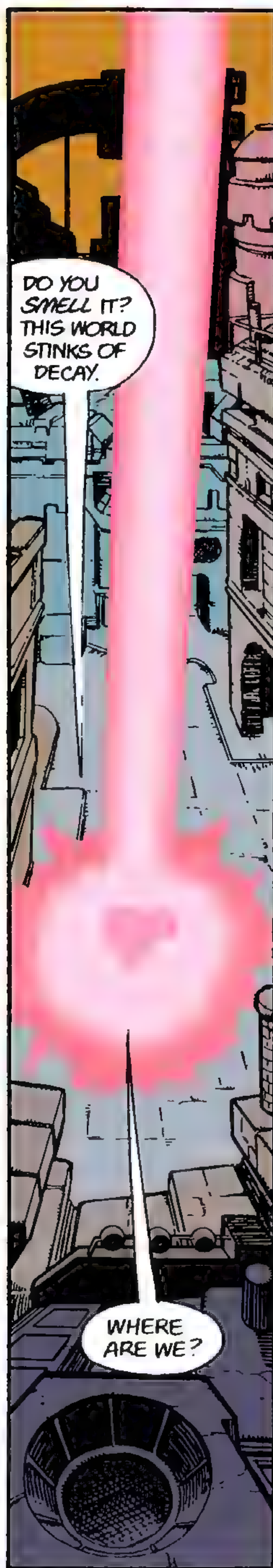
WE HAVE
ARRIVED.

YEAH? WHERE
TO? I DON'T SEE
THIS PLACE ON
MY TRIPLE A
TRIPTYCH!

ANIMAL MAN'S RIGHT,
BRAINIAC. WHERE ARE
YOU TAKING US?

TO THE ONLY ONE
POWERFUL ENOUGH
TO GIVE US AID.

PREPARE TO TELEPORT
TO THE PLANET'S
SURFACE.



DO YOU
SMELL IT?
THIS WORLD
STINKS OF
DECAY.

WHERE
ARE WE?



WE ARE ON A WORLD OF NIGHTMARES
WHOSE DARKEST DEMON SHALL SHOW
US THE LIGHT.

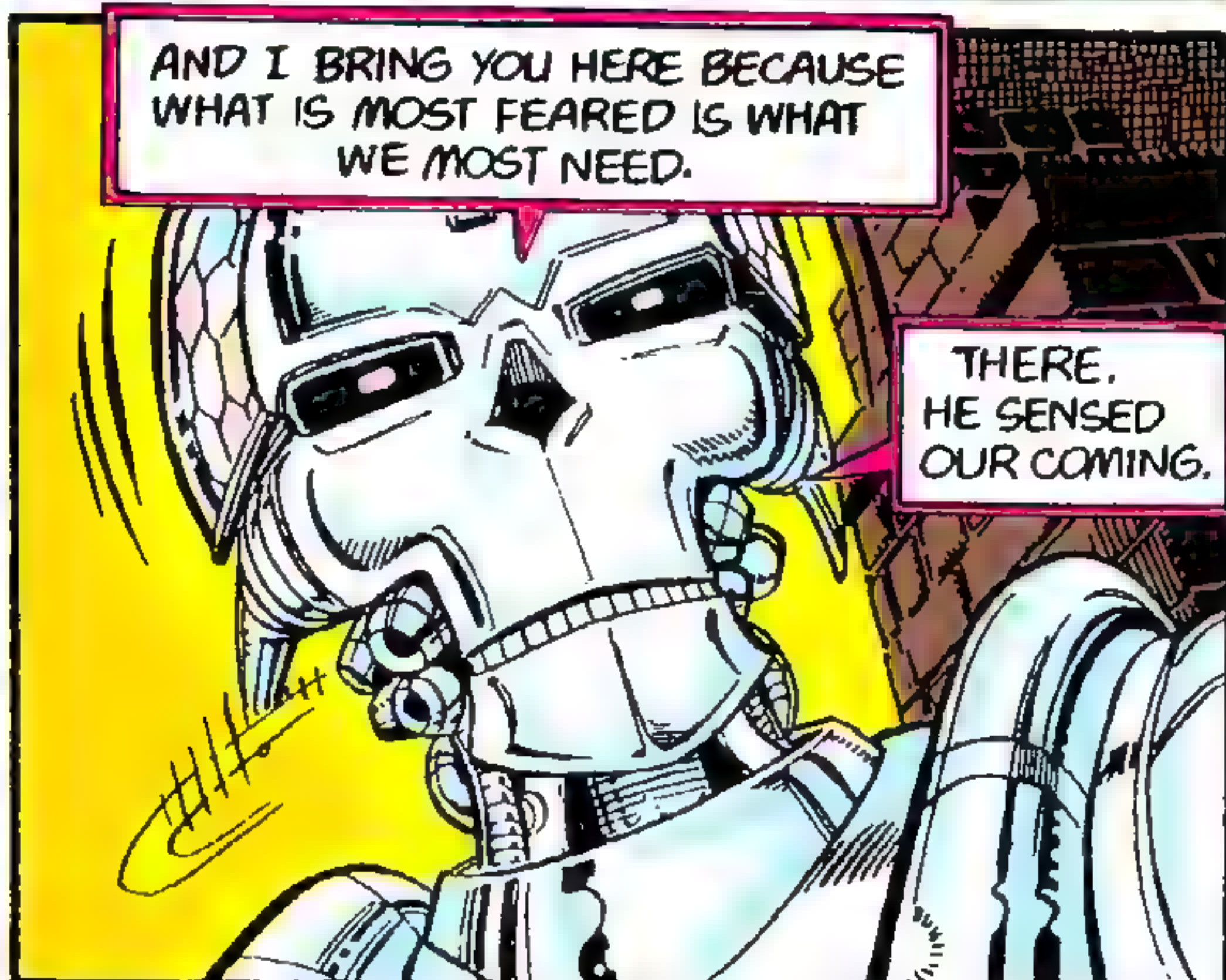
I DO NOT LIKE
THIS... WE SHOULD
LEAVE.



YOU'D BETTER BE
TELLING US THE
TRUTH, BRAINIAC.

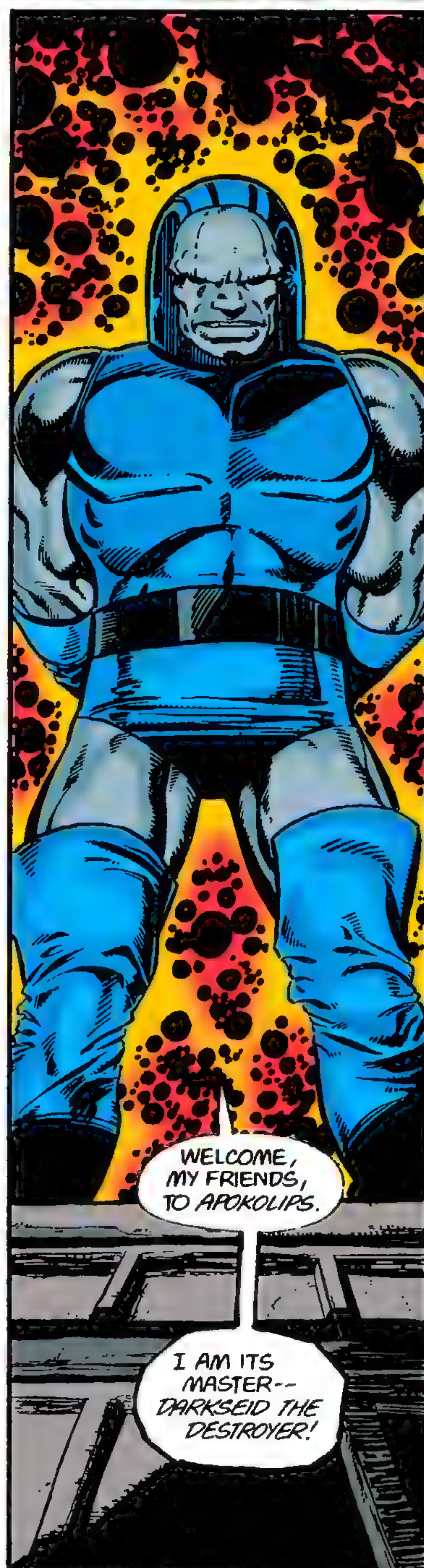
ADAM STRANGE,
I HAVE NEVER
BEEN PROGRAMMED
TO LIE.

I ASSIST YOU BECAUSE MY
DESTRUCTION IS ASSURED IF
OUR ENEMY IS VICTORIOUS.



AND I BRING YOU HERE BECAUSE
WHAT IS MOST FEARED IS WHAT
WE MOST NEED.

THERE.
HE SENSED
OUR COMING.



WELCOME,
MY FRIENDS,
TO APOKOLIPS.

I AM ITS
MASTER--
DARKSEID THE
DESTROYER!

THIS IS LANA LANG FOR WGBS NEWS. IT IS APPARENT TO ALL THAT OUR PLANET IS UNDER SIEGE...

MY EXPLOSIVE TOUCH DOESN'T STOP THEM.

KEEP TRYING, BOMB. SOMETHING'S GOTTA WORK.

...AND THAT EARTH'S GREATEST HEROES HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO REPEL THE DEMONIC INVADERS. LOIS?

HOLD IT, HAWK. THERE'S A KID OVER THERE, TRAPPED.

DOVE, WE CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE WHILE FIGHTING THAT ENEMY.

BUT WE'VE GOT TO TRY.

WE TWO HAVE ALWAYS FOUGHT OUR WARS DIFFERENTLY.

YOU WITH YOUR FISTS, ME WITH MY HEART.

AND NOTHING'S CHANGED AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

LANA, I'M ON THE ALMOST ABANDONED STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY OBSERVING THIS WAR AS IT ESCALATES BEFORE OUR VERY EYES.

WAIT A MOMENT, LANA... SOMETHING IS HAPPENING.

THERE, GOT YOU. NOW, BE CAREFUL, KID... FIND A PLACE TO HIDE AND DON'T COME OUT UNTIL THIS IS OVER.

DON! MY GOD-- BEHIND YOU!

DON!!

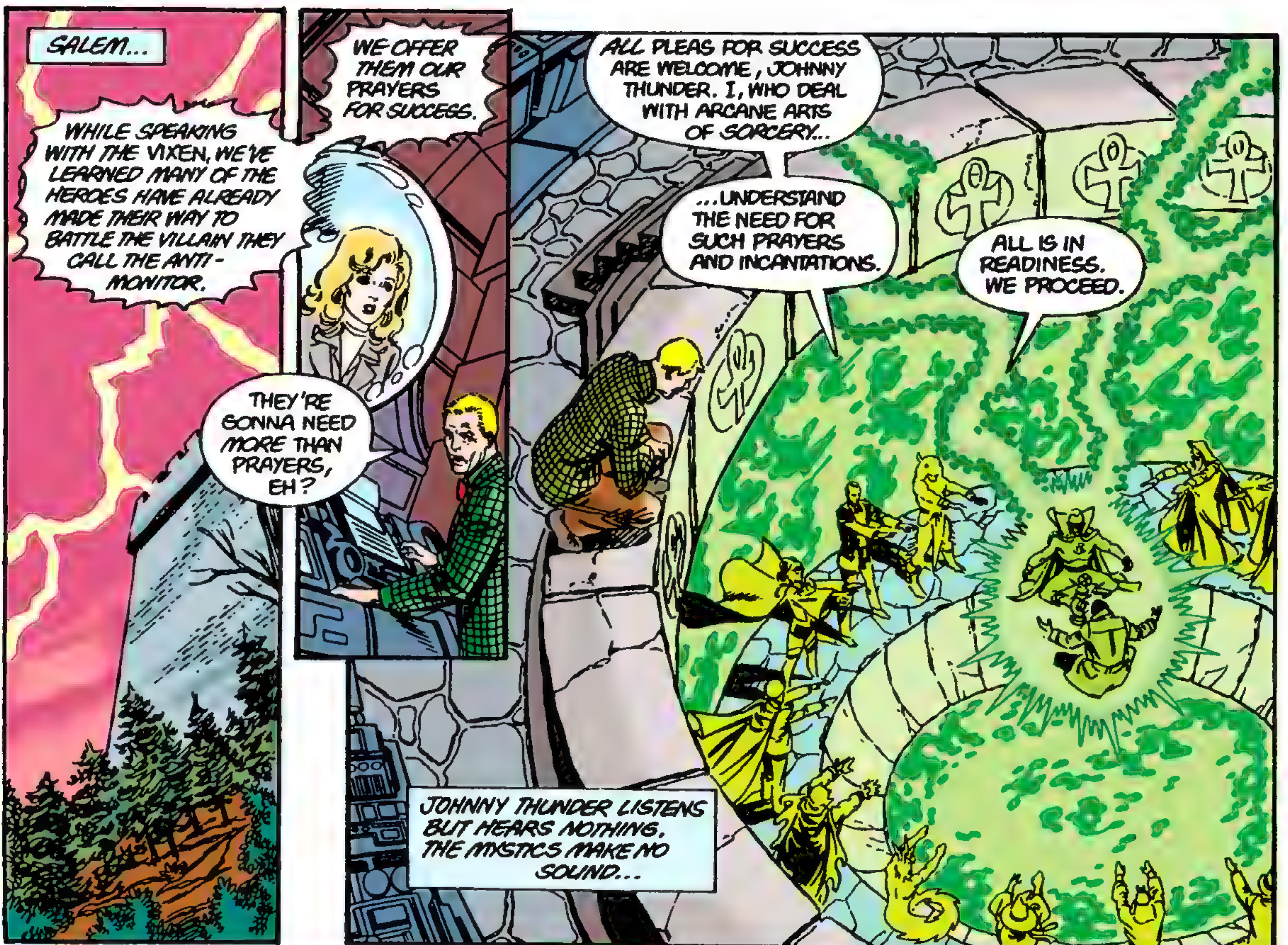
OH, MY GOD.

DON!

D-DOVE... OF HAWK AND DOVE, TWO HEROES THOUGHT TO HAVE RETIRED SEVERAL YEARS AGO... WAS SAVING THE LIFE OF A CHILD.

AND NOW... NOW HE'S DEAD. GONE AS IF HE NEVER EXISTED. IT'S HORRIBLE, LANA... HORRIBLE.

PLEASE GIVE US A MOMENT TO COLLECT OURSELVES. WHAT'S HAPPENING MAKES OBJECTIVE REPORTING IMPOSSIBLE.



SALEM...

WHILE SPEAKING WITH THE VIXEN, WE'VE LEARNED MANY OF THE HEROES HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR WAY TO BATTLE THE VILLAIN THEY CALL THE ANTI-MONITOR.

THEY'RE GONNA NEED MORE THAN PRAYERS, EH?

WE OFFER THEM OUR PRAYERS FOR SUCCESS.

ALL PLEAS FOR SUCCESS ARE WELCOME, JOHNNY THUNDER. I, WHO DEAL WITH ARCANES ARTS OF SORCERY...

...UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR SUCH PRAYERS AND INCANTATIONS.

ALL IS IN READINESS. WE PROCEED.

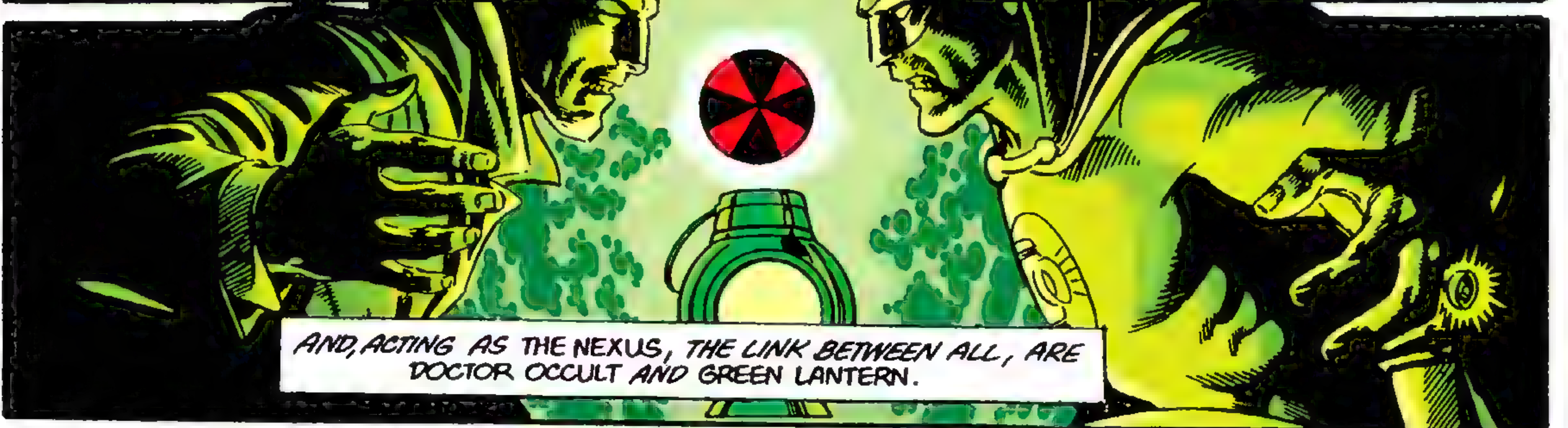
JOHNNY THUNDER LISTENS BUT HEARS NOTHING. THE MYSTICS MAKE NO SOUND...



...FOR THE INCANTATION THEY MAKE IS A SILENT ONE...



EACH CALLING ON HIS OWN SOURCE OF POWER, EACH SUMMONING HIS OWN BELIEFS.



AND, ACTING AS THE NEXUS, THE LINK BETWEEN ALL, ARE DOCTOR OCCULT AND GREEN LANTERN.

WHILE, ON THE
ANTIMATTER
WORLD OF QWARD...

WE'VE MADE
IT THIS FAR.
NOW WHAT?

THAT'S UP TO FARIAN. HE
HAS THE POWER TO FOCUS
ON EVIL AND BRING US
TO ITS SOURCE.

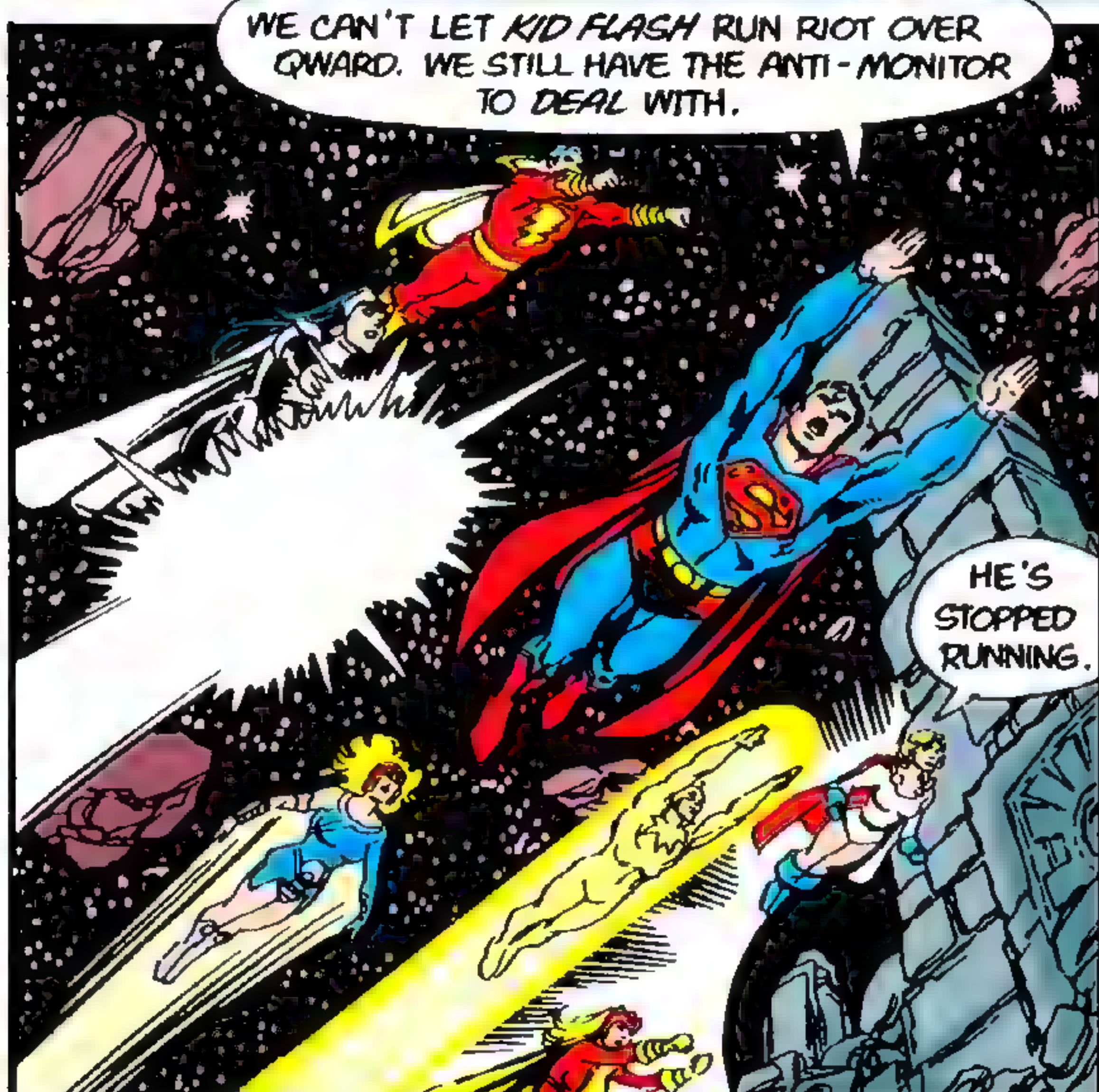
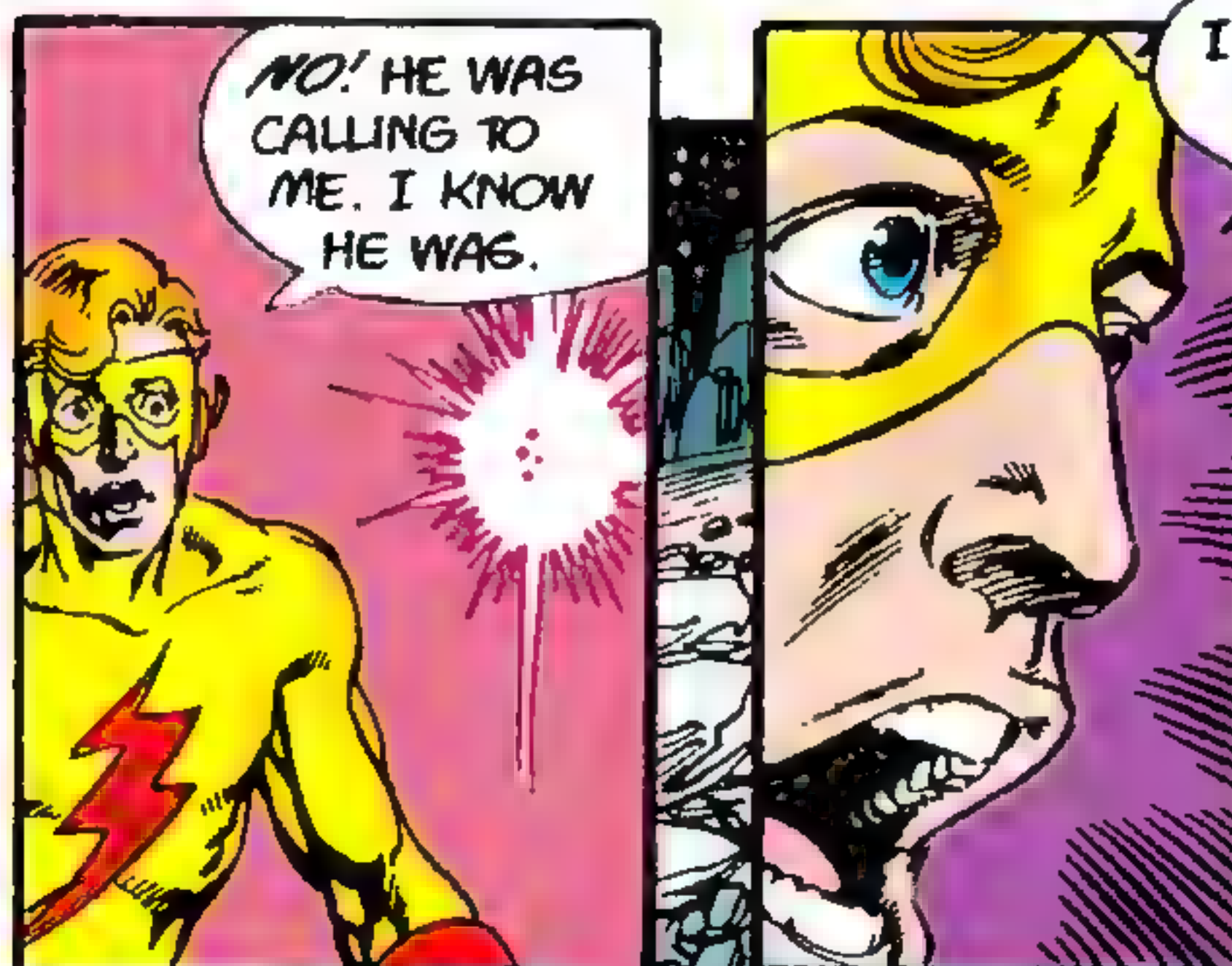
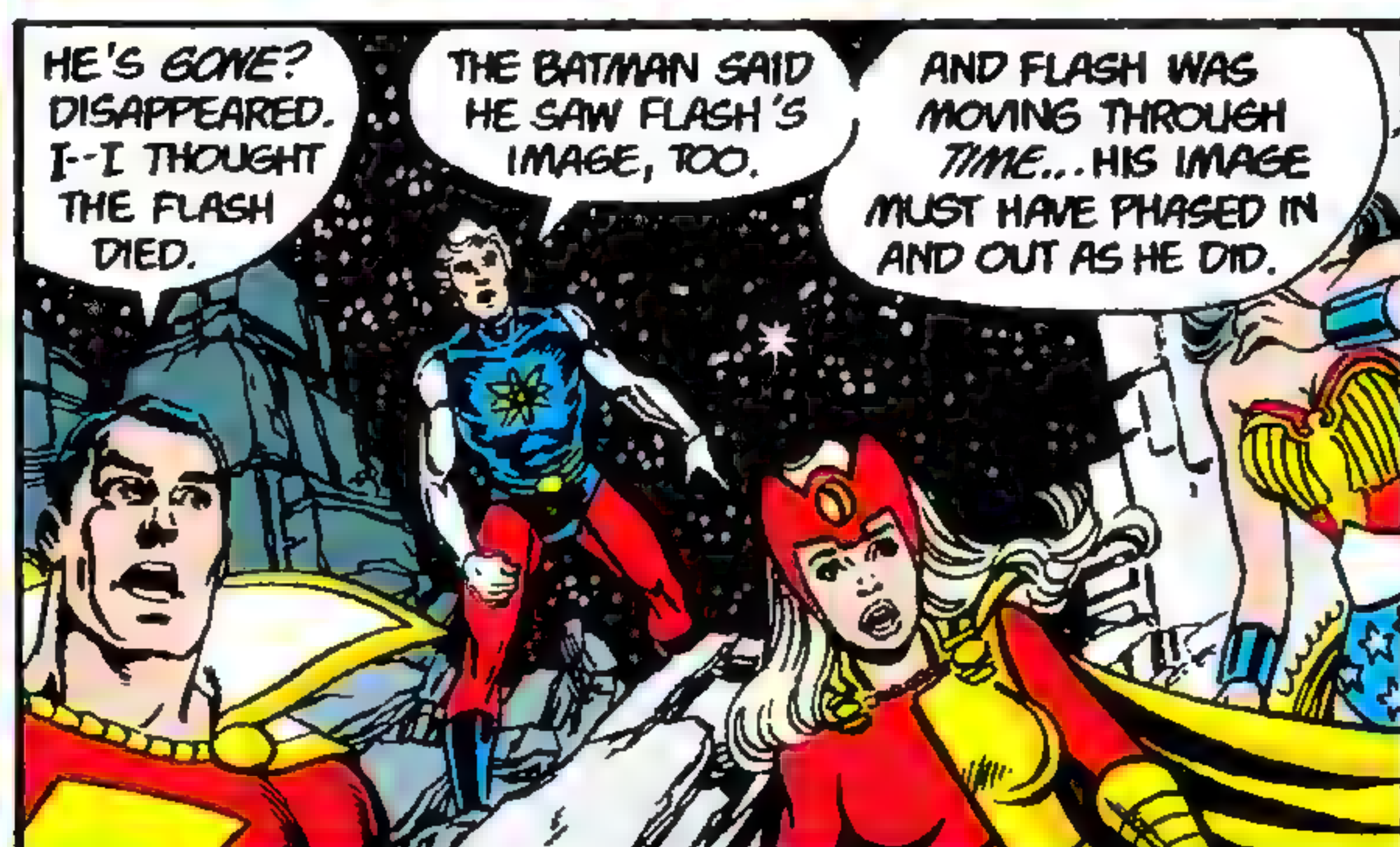
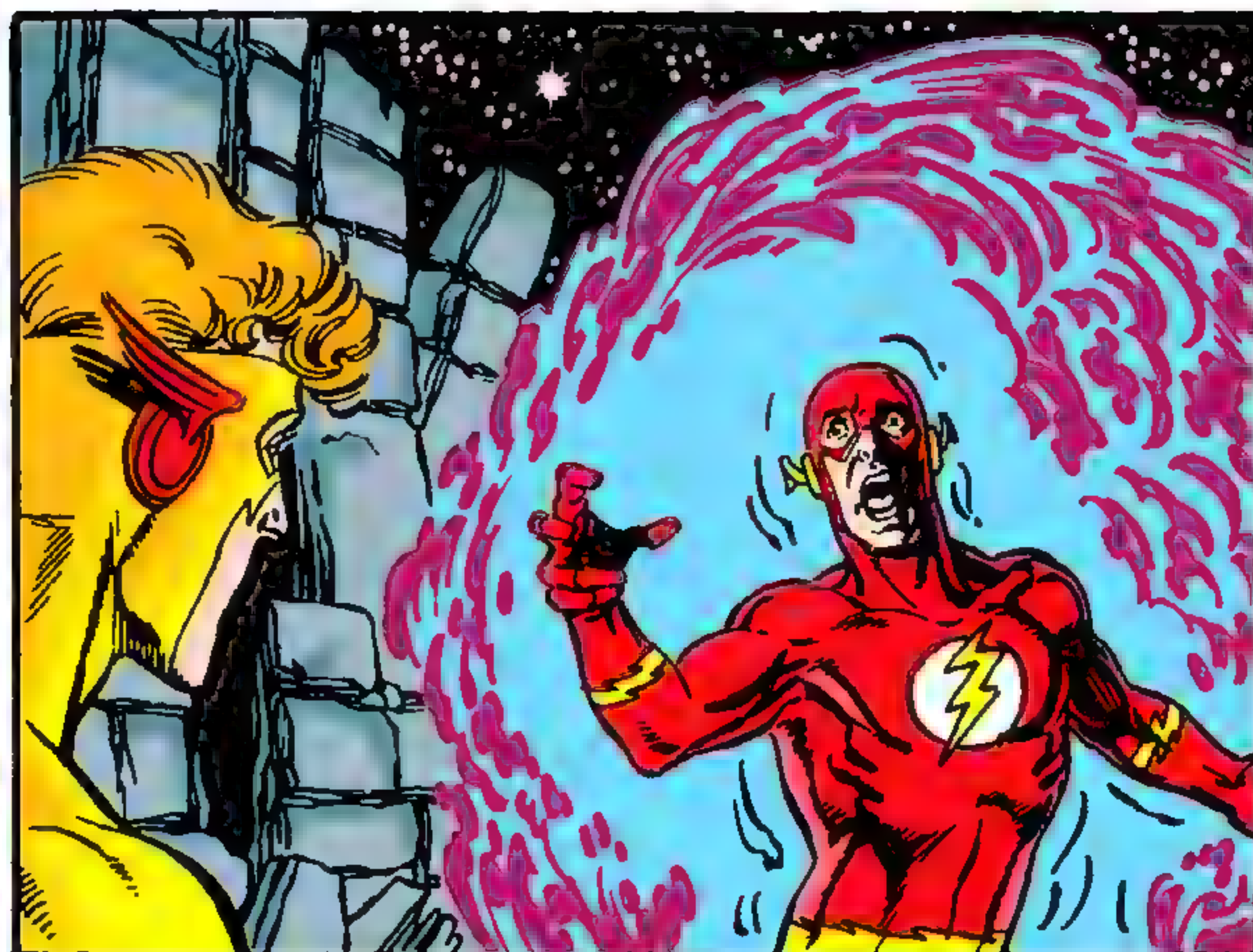
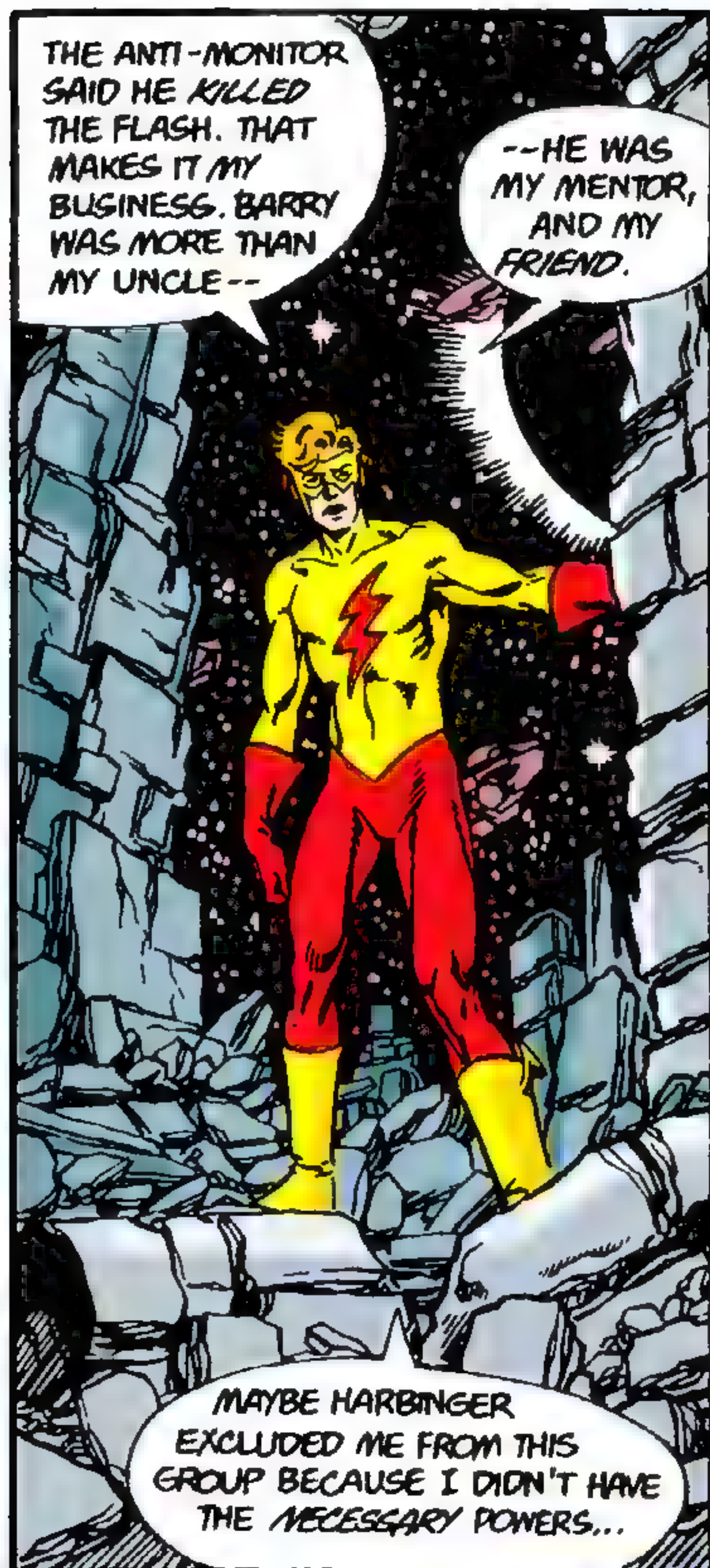
THEN LET'S
GET ON WITH
IT.

I--I CAN'T. I SENSE
EVIL ALL AROUND US.
THERE'S NO SINGLE
POINT TO CONCENTRATE
ON.

I'M NOT GOING
TO SIT AROUND HERE
AND WAIT. I WANT
TO FIND THE ANTI-
MONITOR-- NOW!

SO DO I, SUPERMAN.
AND JUST AS
MUCH AS YOU DO.

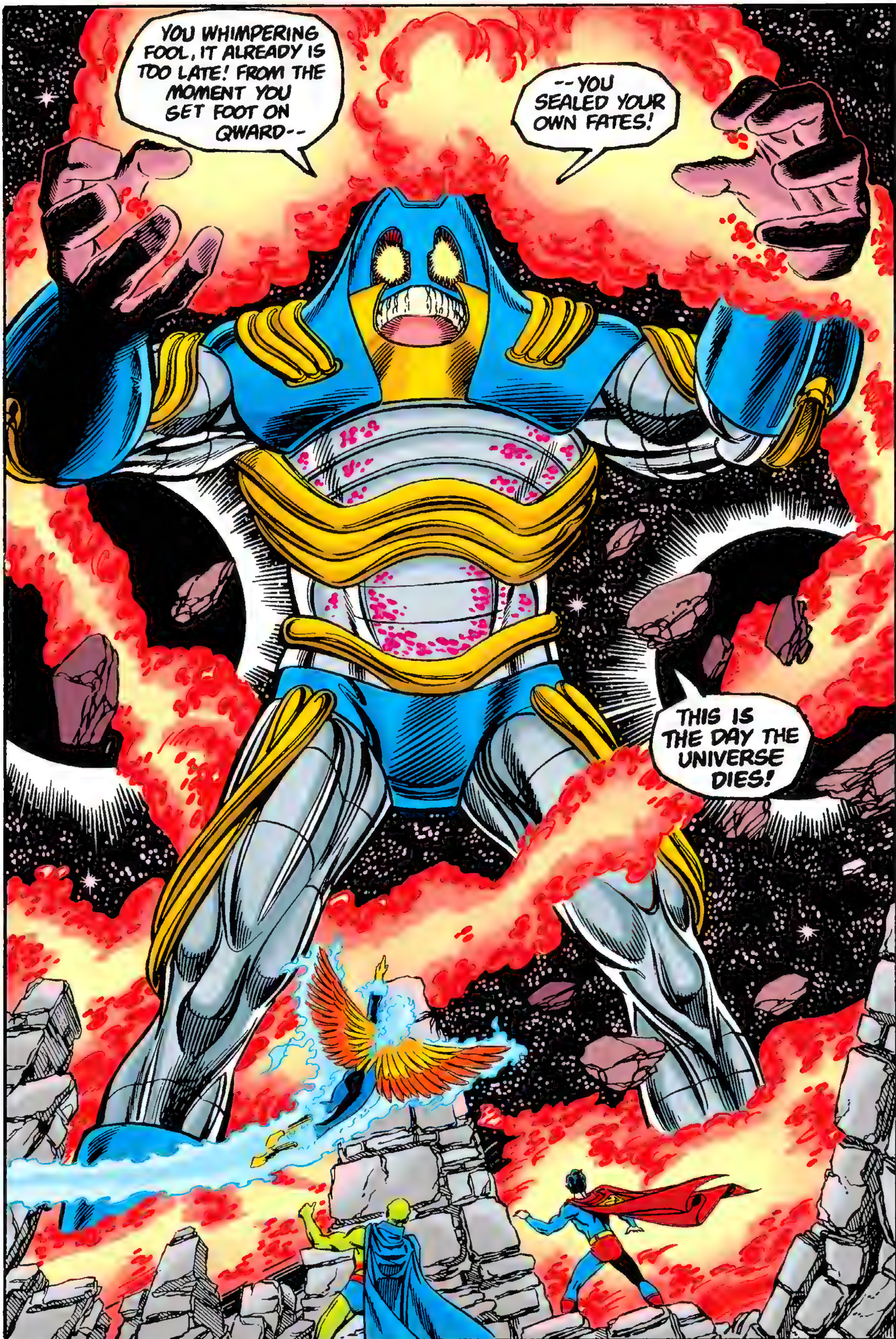
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?



YOU WHIMPERING
FOOL, IT ALREADY IS
TOO LATE! FROM THE
MOMENT YOU
SET FOOT ON
QWARD--

-- YOU
SEALED YOUR
OWN FATES!

THIS IS
THE DAY THE
UNIVERSE
DIES!





ATLANTIS:

THESE THINGS
SEEM TO BE
EVERYWHERE.
THE JLA WANTS
ME ON THE
SURFACE...

BUT I WON'T
ABANDON
ATLANTIS.
NOT
AGAIN.

I'M NOT
SURE THERE'S
GOING TO BE
AN ATLANTIS
LEFT, BUT IF
NECESSARY I'LL
DEFEND ITS LAST
RUINS WITH MY
LIFE.

TRITONIS
WAS DESTROYED
BY THOSE THINGS,
AND IT'S ONLY A
MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE
POSEIDONIS
FALLS, TOO.

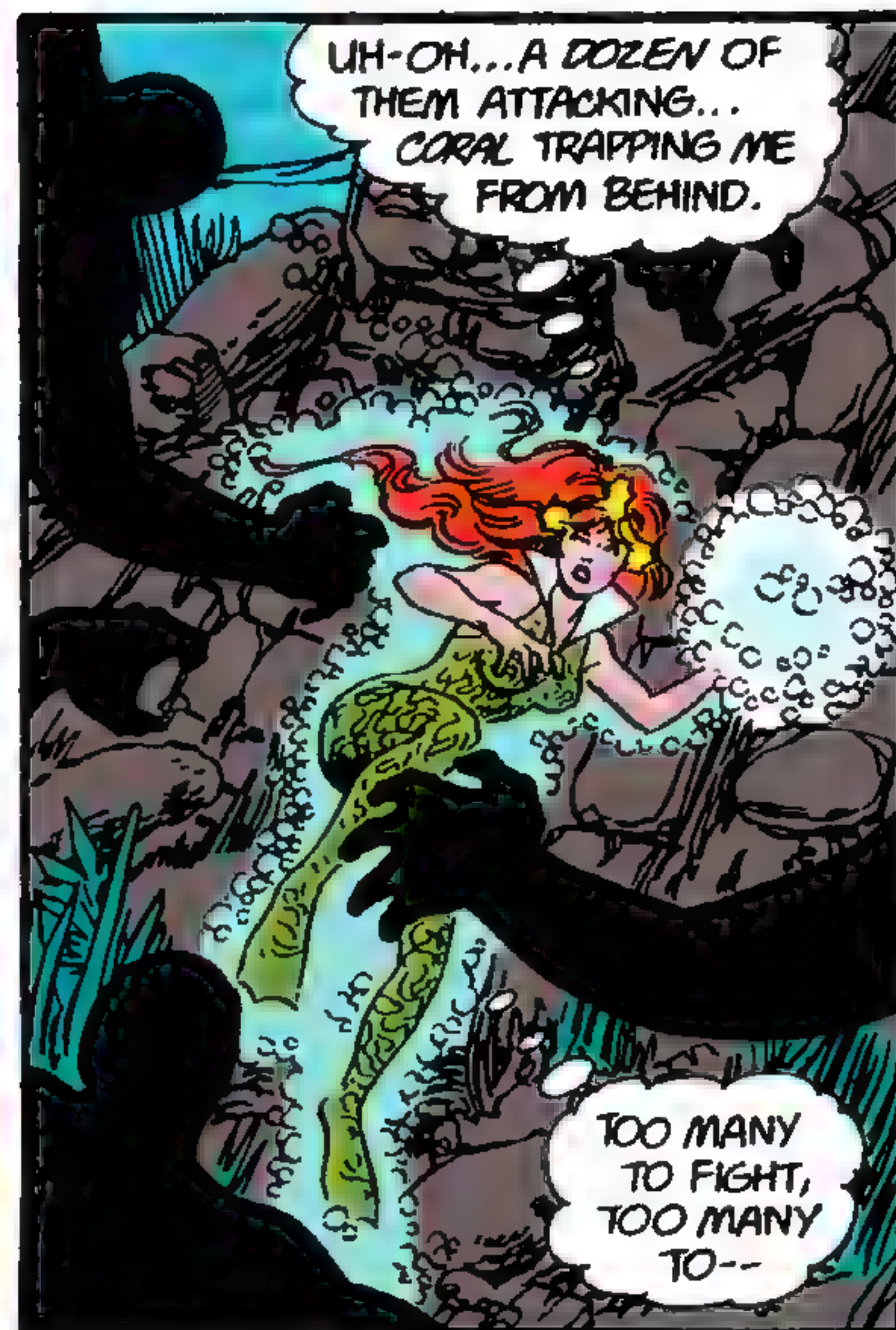
I ONLY
PRAY THE
HEROES IN THE
ANTI-
MATTER
UNIVERSE
CAN MAKE
THEIR PLAN
WORK.



ARTHUR AND LORI AREN'T HAVING
ANY GREATER SUCCESS THAN I AM--

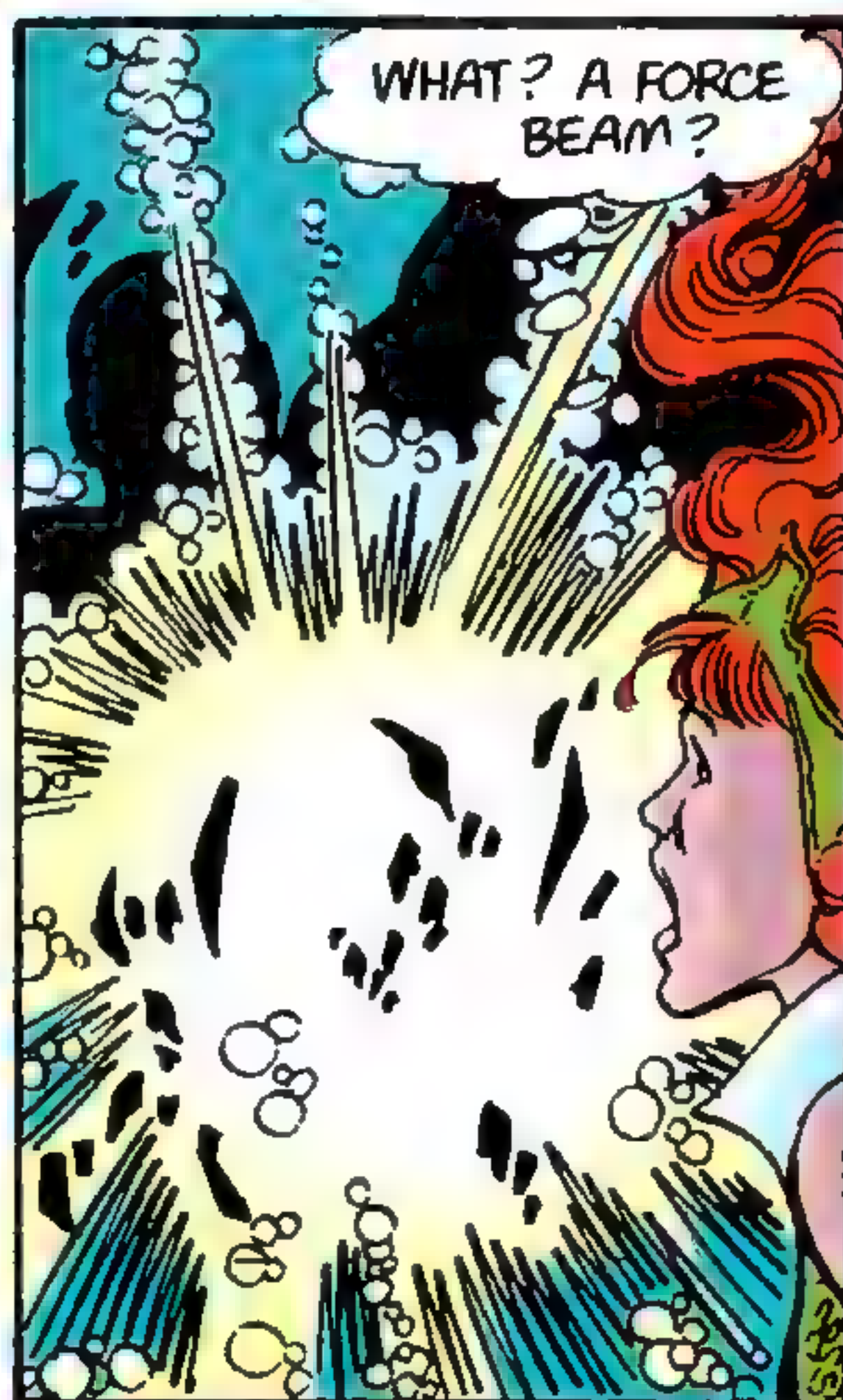
--EVEN WITH
MY ABILITY TO
FORM HARD
WATER.

I CAN DRIVE THESE THINGS
AWAY FOR A MOMENT, BUT THEY
COME BACK WITH A VENGEANCE.



UH-OH...A DOZEN OF
THEM ATTACKING...
CORAL TRAPPING ME
FROM BEHIND.

TOO MANY
TO FIGHT,
TOO MANY
TO--



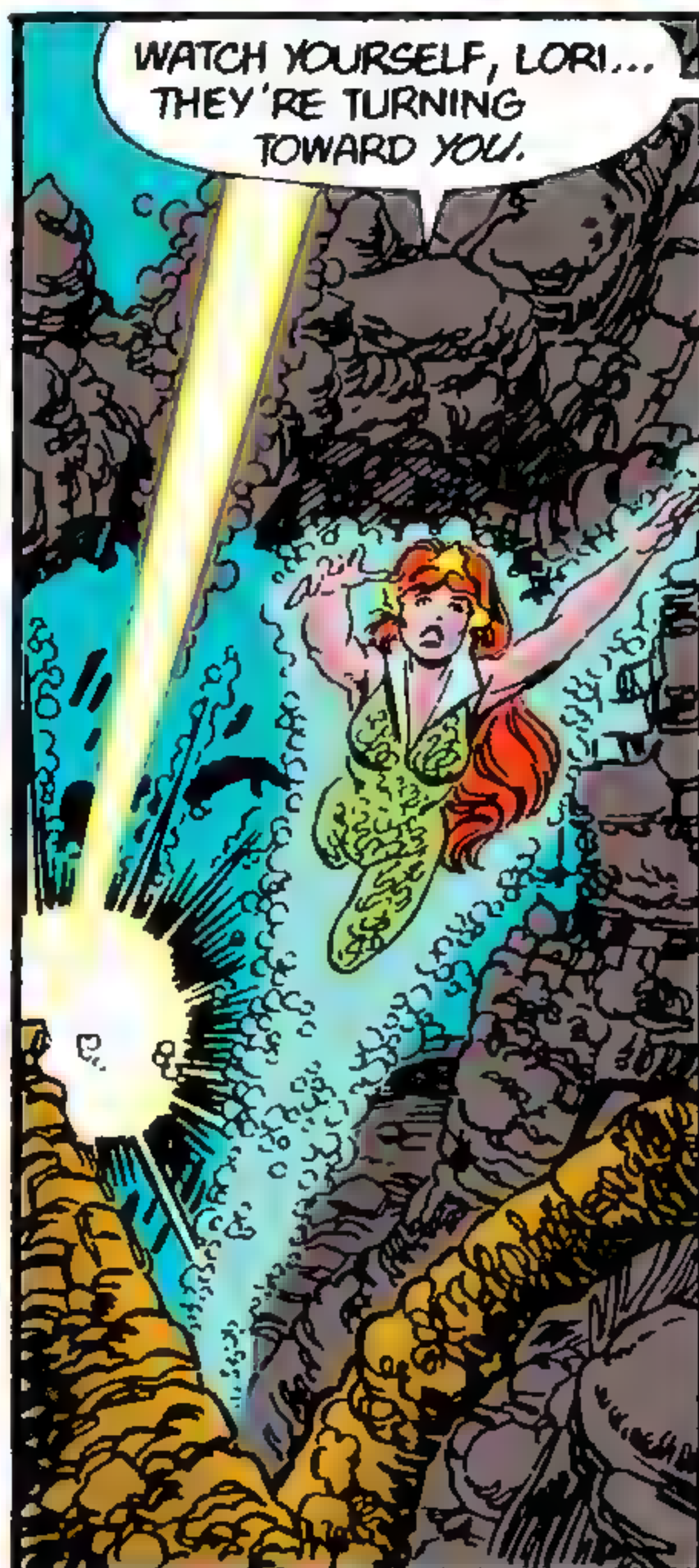
WHAT? A FORCE
BEAM?



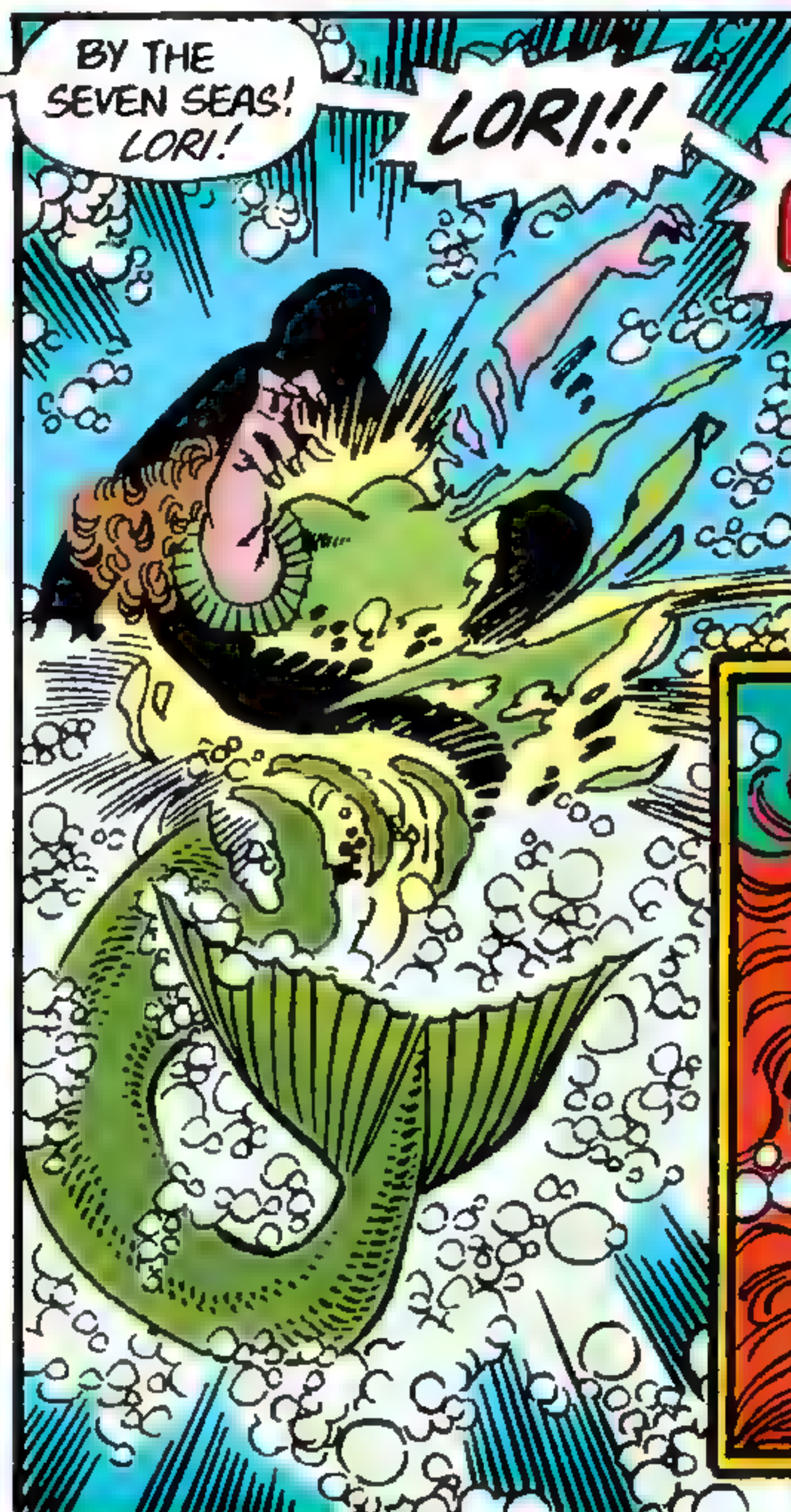
LORI LEMARIS!?!



MERA, SWIM FOR
IT! HURRY--
MOVE!



WATCH YOURSELF, LORI...
THEY'RE TURNING
TOWARD YOU.

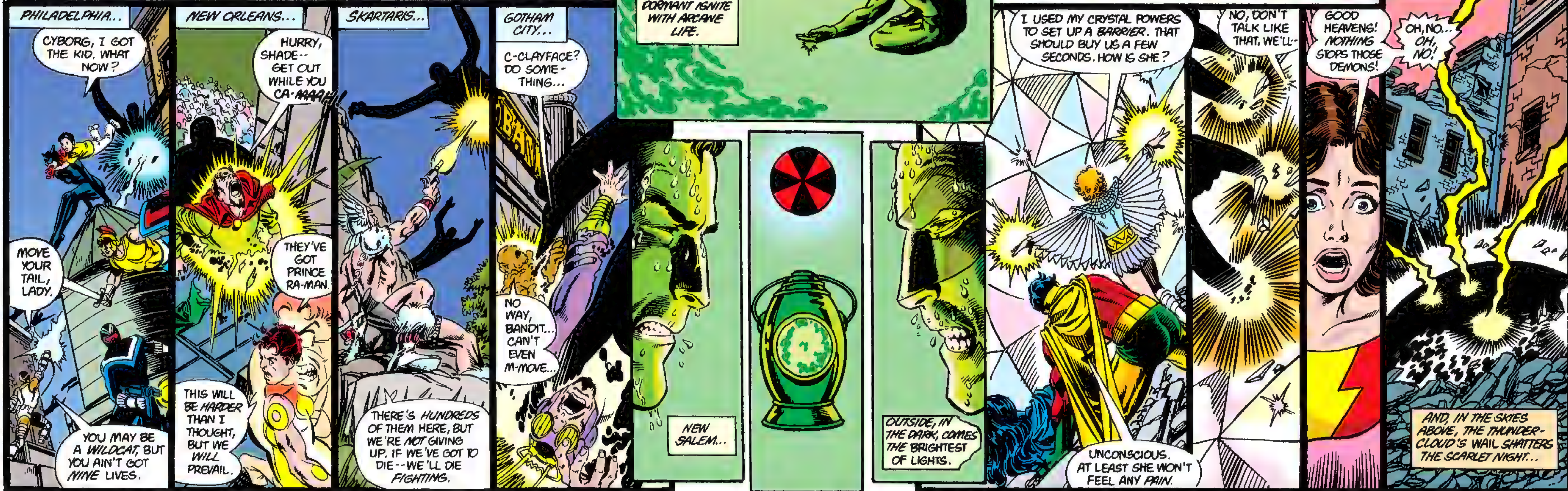


BY THE
SEVEN SEAS!
LORI!

LORI!!

LORI!





THE GLOW SURROUNDS FATE'S TOWER, WAITING FOR THE SECRET WORDS WHICH WILL RELEASE THE ROLLING FORCE...

DON'T KNOW WHY I'M SO SCARED-- AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT MAGICIANS AND SORCERERS AND GUYS WHO CAN PROBABLY MAKE GOLD OUTTA BIG MACS

IT APPEARS, FIRST OVER SALEM, THEN SPREADING IN AN EVER-WIDENING SPIRAL OVER ALL THE EARTH.

SLITHERING OUT-WARD INTO THE DARK, TOWARD THE ANTI-MONITOR'S DEMONS...

THIS ENERGY IS THE COLLECTIVE FORCE OF ALL THE SORCERERS, AND IT RISES HIGH OVER THE WORLD...

WHAT IS HEARD IS THE SQUEAL OF THE SHADOW DEMONS AS THE ENERGY CUTS THROUGH THEM LIKE FINELY-EDGED RAZORS...

GO WHY IS IT EVEN MY TOENAILS ARE SHAKING?

AND THEN THE SCREAMS BEGIN, A SWIRLING CATER-WAULING SCREECH AS THE SORCEROUS POWER ELECTRIFIES THE AIR...

TAWNY YOUNG...

REPORTS ARE COMING IN FROM EVERYWHERE.

LOIS LANE...

SOMETHING IS DRAWING THE SHADOW DEMONS AWAY FROM US.

ROY RAYMOND...

... AS IMPOSSIBLE AS IT MAY SEEM, IT IS TRUE. THEY ARE BEING SUCKED INTO SPACE.

AND THE POWERS ASSEMBLED IN SALEM CONTINUE THEIR ENCHANTMENT...

... AS THOUSANDS OF THESE SHADOW DEMONS, HUNDREDS IN EACH COUNTRY, ARE PAINFULLY WRENCHED INTO SPACE, THEIR PROTESTS AND SQUEALS UNHEEDED...

UNTIL, AT LAST, THEY FIND THEMSELVES IMPRISONED WITHIN A SHELL OF BURNING PYRO-SORCERY.

THEY ARE GONE...

... BUT THEIR DEEDS ARE NOT UNDONE.

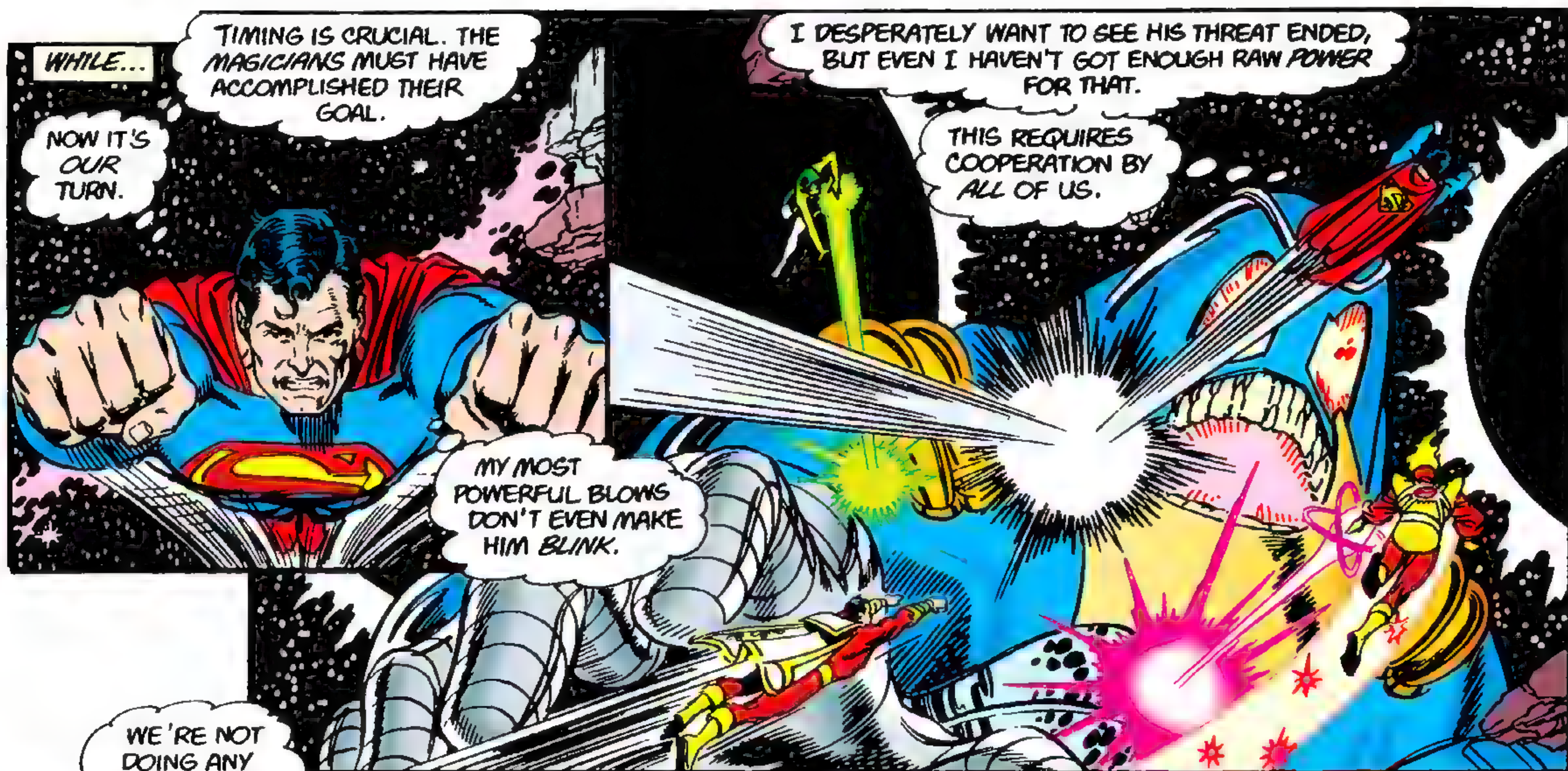
LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST.

BUT MORE, MANY MORE...

... HAVE BEEN SAVED.

IT WORKED... IT REALLY WORKED!

BLESS MY SOUL, WE'VE STILL GOT A FIGHTING CHANCE.



WHILE...

NOW IT'S
OUR
TURN.

TIMING IS CRUCIAL. THE
MAGICIANS MUST HAVE
ACCOMPLISHED THEIR
GOAL.

I DESPERATELY WANT TO SEE HIS THREAT ENDED,
BUT EVEN I HAVEN'T GOT ENOUGH RAW POWER
FOR THAT.

THIS REQUIRES
COOPERATION BY
ALL OF US.

MY MOST
POWERFUL BLOWS
DON'T EVEN MAKE
HIM BLINK.

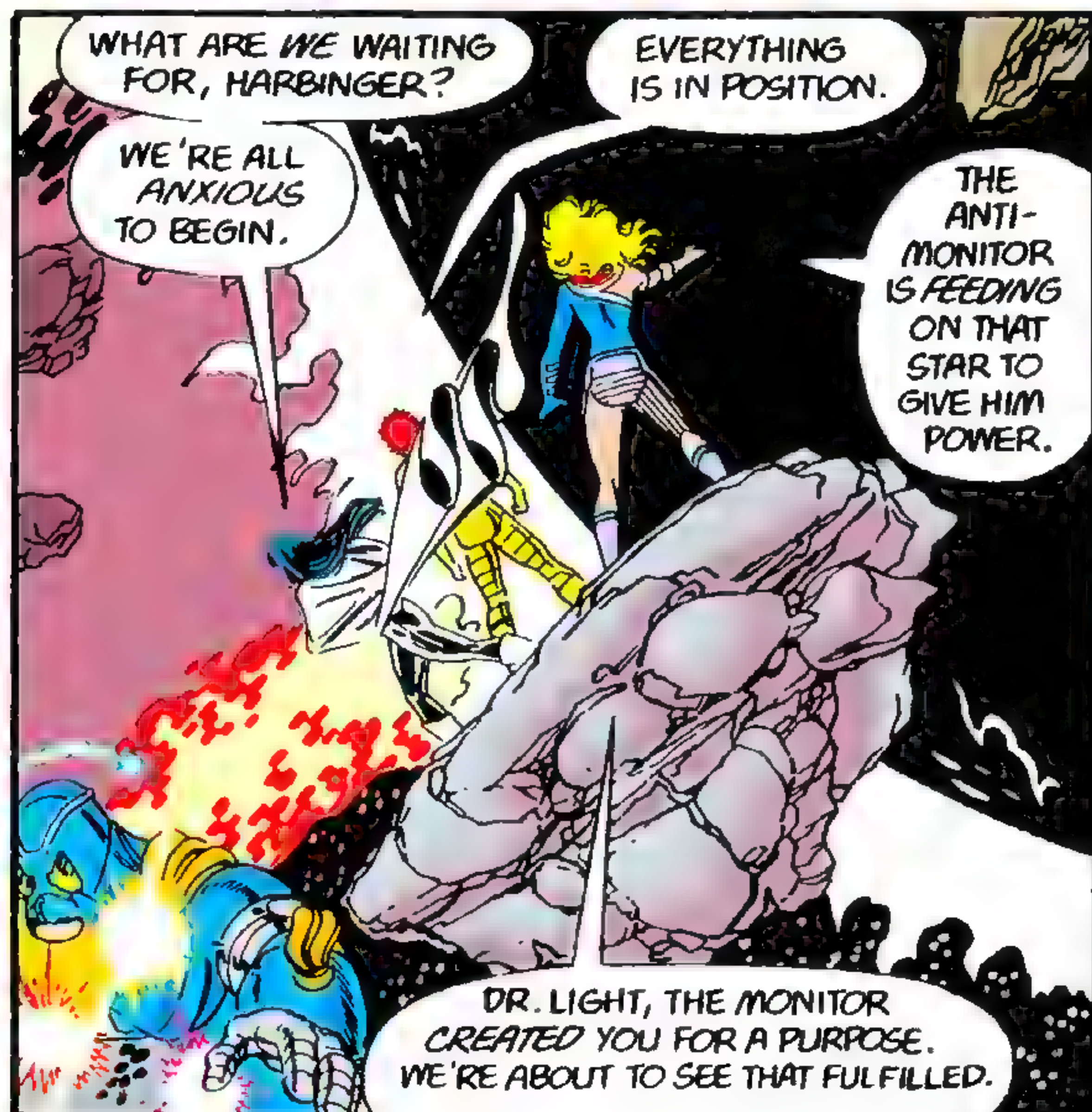
WE'RE NOT
DOING ANY
DAMAGE, BUT
THAT'S NOT
OUR JOB.

WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO DISTRACT
HIM.

AND WE'RE
CERTAINLY
DOIN' THAT.

I'M USING ALL
MY ATOMIC FORCE,
BUT IT'S USELESS
AGAINST HIM. DOESN'T
HE HAVE ANY WEAK
SPOTS?

I THINK WE'RE
ABOUT TO FIND
OUT.



WHAT ARE WE WAITING
FOR, HARBINGER?

WE'RE ALL
ANXIOUS
TO BEGIN.

EVERYTHING
IS IN POSITION.

THE
ANTI-
MONITOR
IS FEEDING
ON THAT
STAR TO GIVE HIM
POWER.

DR. LIGHT, THE MONITOR
CREATED YOU FOR A PURPOSE.
WE'RE ABOUT TO SEE THAT FULFILLED.

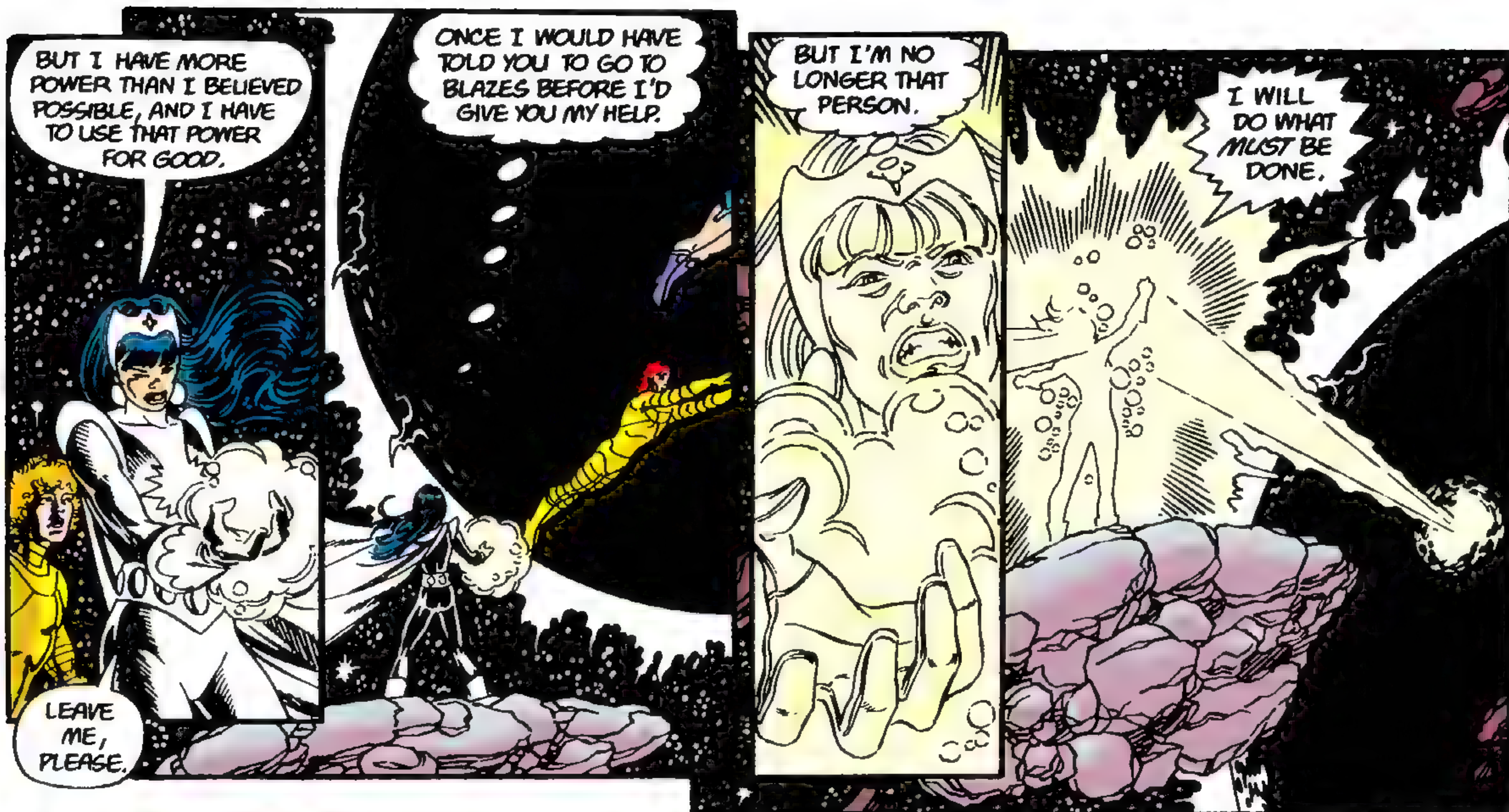


YOUR POWER IS TO ABSORB SOLAR ENERGY
AND CONVERT IT FOR USE.

WE'RE BETWEEN
A BINARY STAR...
BUT ONE SHOULD
PROVIDE THE POWER
TO DO WHAT WE
NEED.

YOU
WANT ME
TO ABSORB
A SUN'S
ENERGY?

I I DON'T
KNOW IF I CAN.



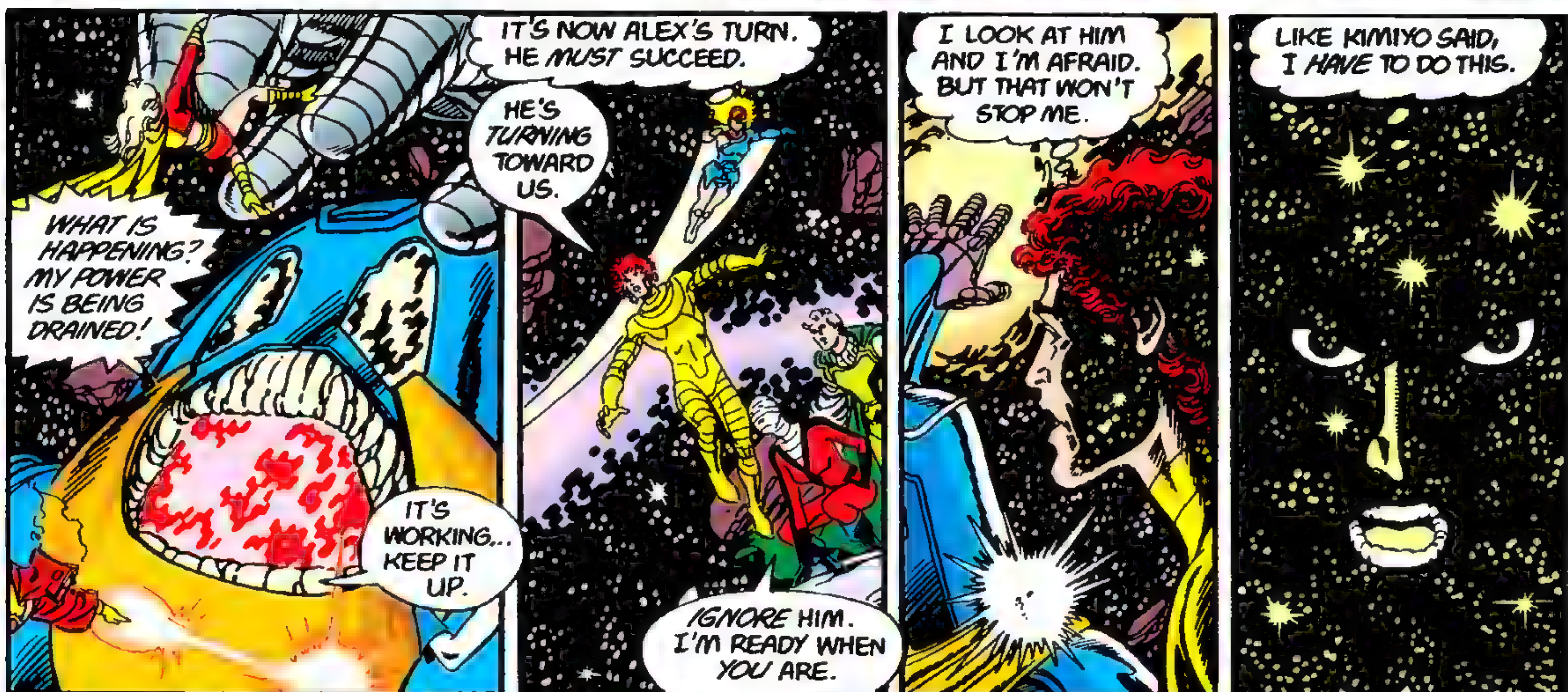
BUT I HAVE MORE POWER THAN I BELIEVED POSSIBLE, AND I HAVE TO USE THAT POWER FOR GOOD.

ONCE I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU TO GO TO BLAZES BEFORE I'D GIVE YOU MY HELP.

BUT I'M NO LONGER THAT PERSON.

I WILL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

LEAVE ME, PLEASE.



WHAT IS HAPPENING? MY POWER IS BEING DRAINED!

IT'S NOW ALEX'S TURN. HE MUST SUCCEED.

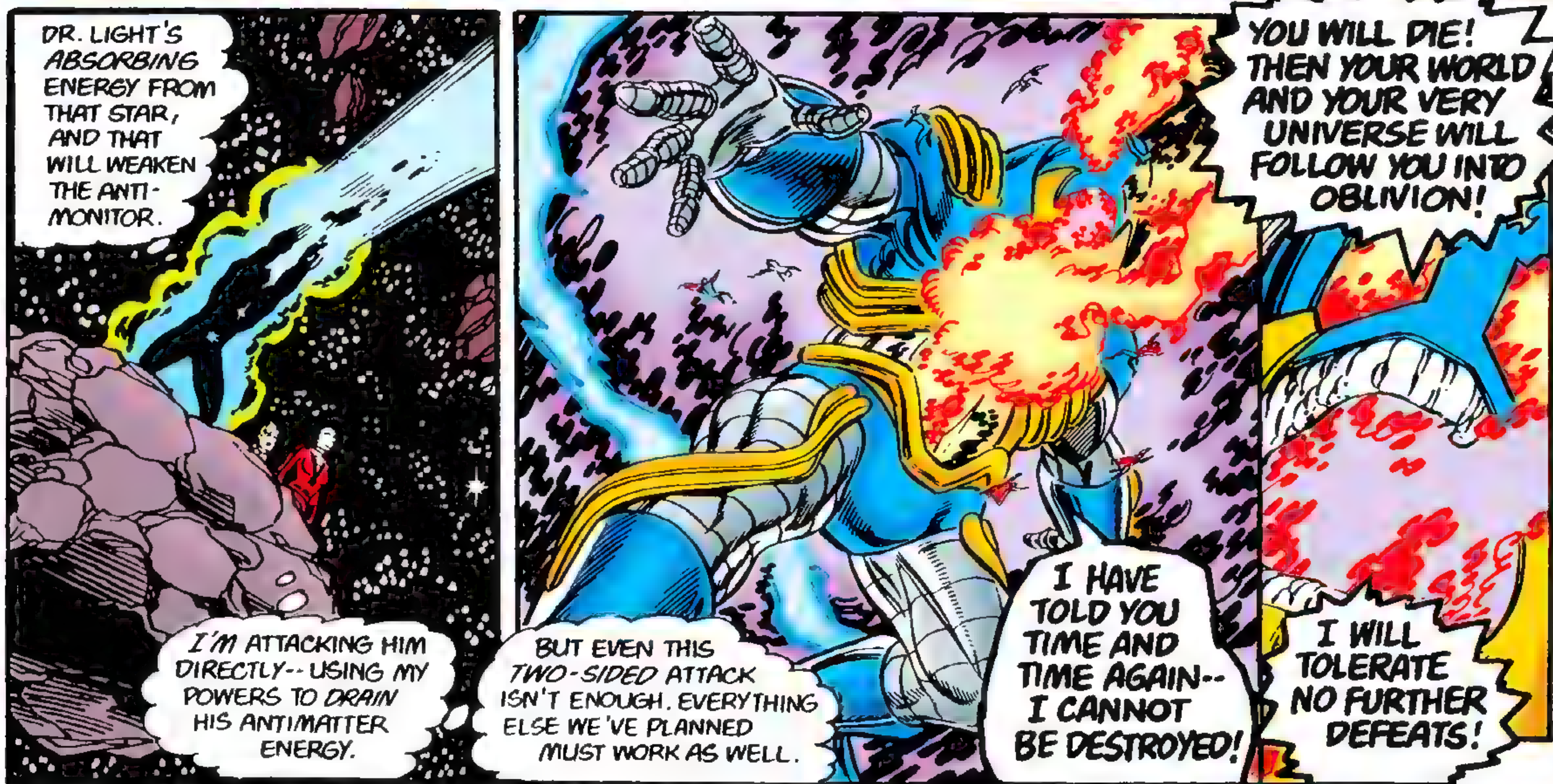
HE'S TURNING TOWARD US.

I LOOK AT HIM AND I'M AFRAID. BUT THAT WON'T STOP ME.

LIKE KIMIYO SAID, I HAVE TO DO THIS.

IT'S WORKING... KEEP IT UP.

IGNORE HIM. I'M READY WHEN YOU ARE.



DR. LIGHT'S ABSORBING ENERGY FROM THAT STAR, AND THAT WILL WEAKEN THE ANTI-MONITOR.

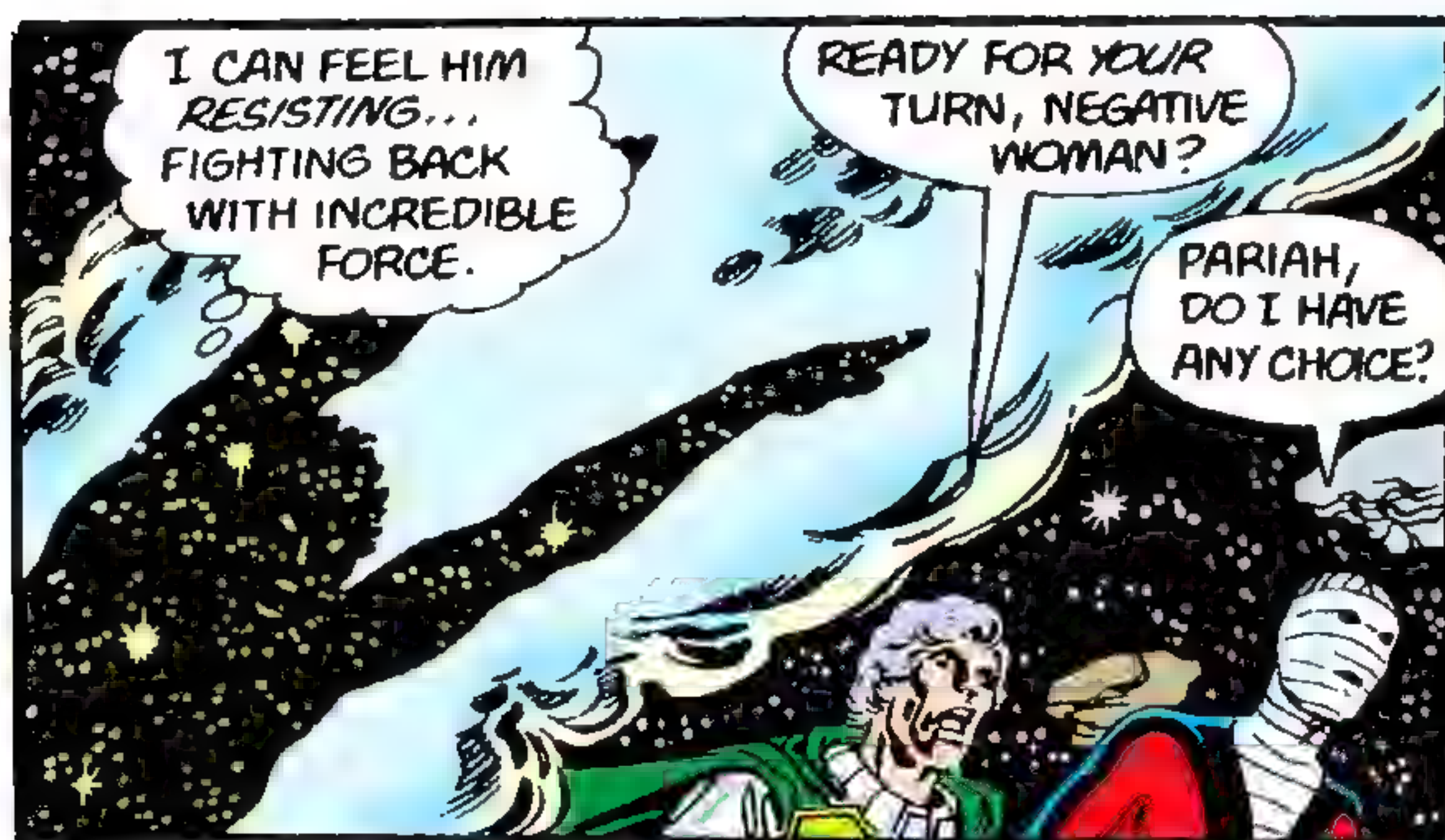
I'M ATTACKING HIM DIRECTLY-- USING MY POWERS TO DRAIN HIS ANTIMATTER ENERGY.

BUT EVEN THIS TWO-SIDED ATTACK ISN'T ENOUGH. EVERYTHING ELSE WE'VE PLANNED MUST WORK AS WELL.

I HAVE TOLD YOU TIME AND TIME AGAIN-- I CANNOT BE DESTROYED!

YOU WILL DIE! THEN YOUR WORLD AND YOUR VERY UNIVERSE WILL FOLLOW YOU INTO OBLIVION!

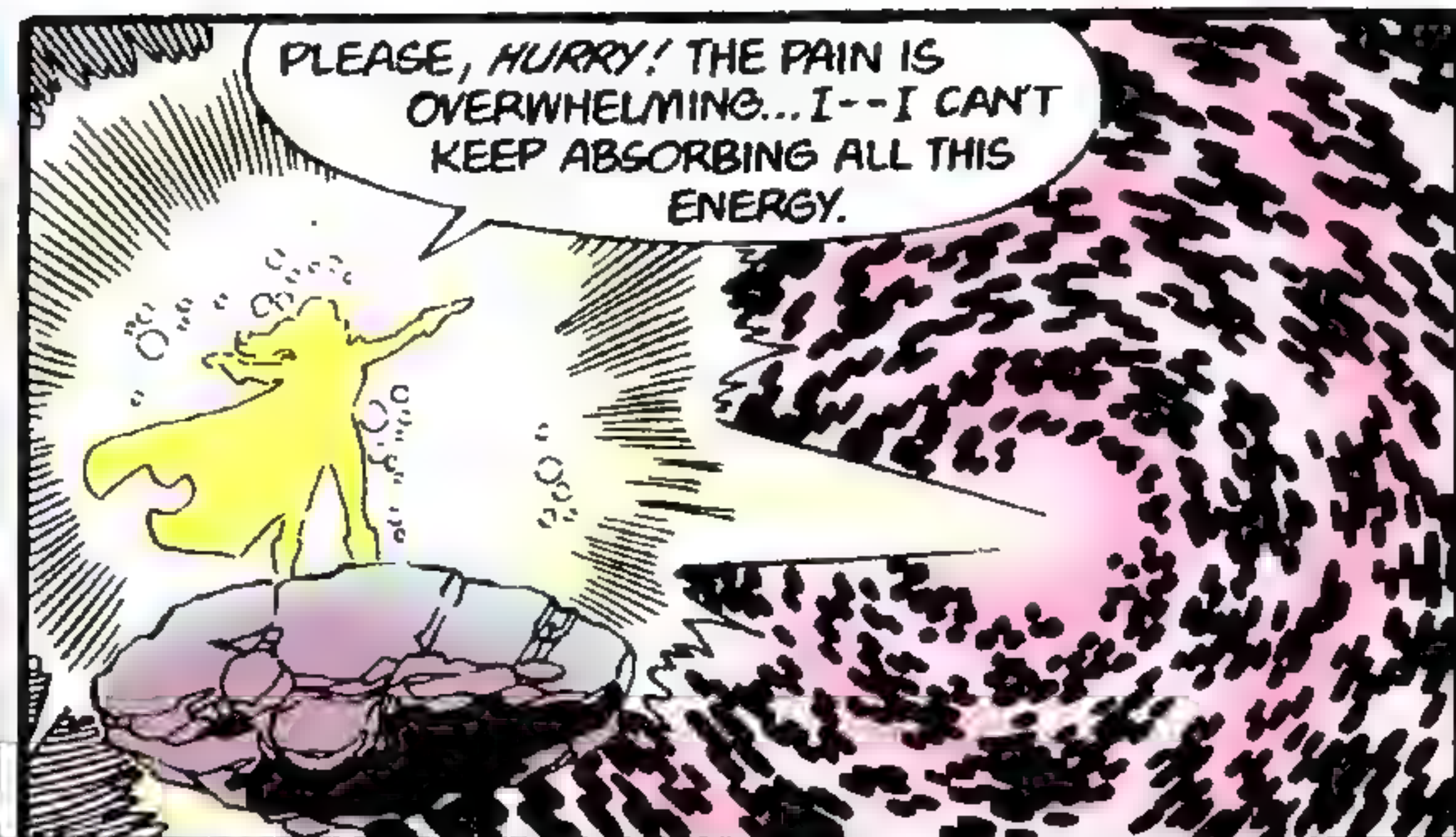
I WILL TOLERATE NO FURTHER DEFEATS!



I CAN FEEL HIM
RESISTING...
FIGHTING BACK
WITH INCREDIBLE
FORCE.

READY FOR YOUR
TURN, NEGATIVE
WOMAN?

PARIAH,
DO I HAVE
ANY CHOICE?



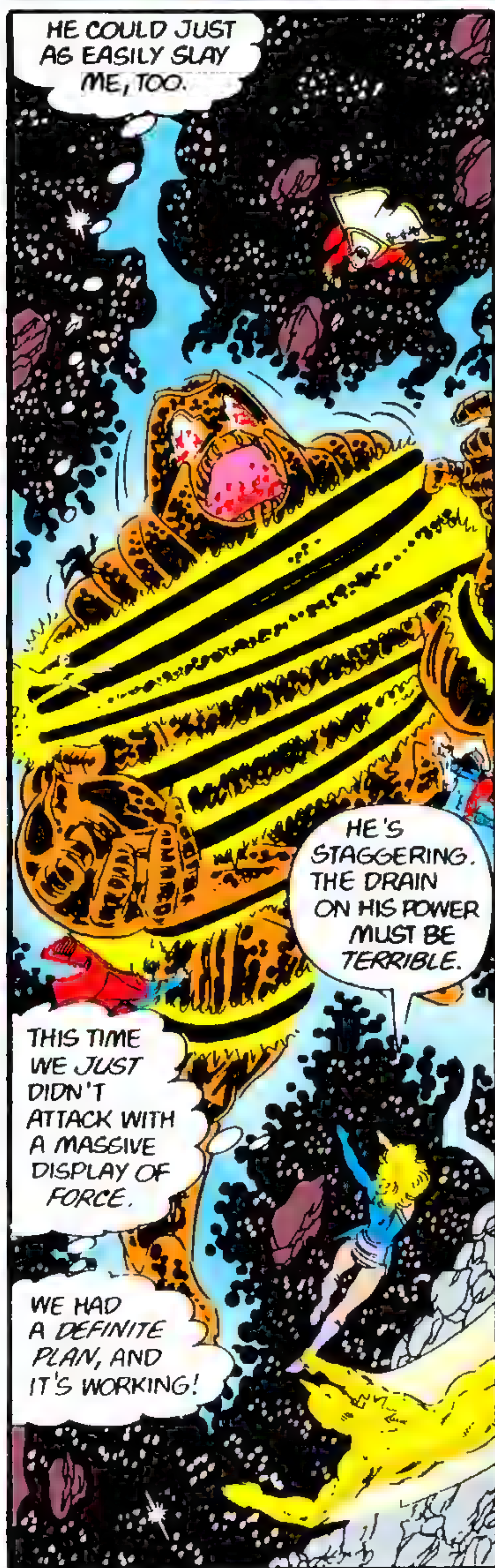
PLEASE, HURRY! THE PAIN IS
OVERWHELMING... I--I CAN'T
KEEP ABSORBING ALL THIS
ENERGY.



THIS IS WHAT I HAVE
BEEN DREADING.

I AM RADIOACTIVE.
IF I WISH IT, MY
TOUCH CAN BURN!

BUT TO BURN THE
ANTI-MONITOR, I MUST
TOUCH HIM, AND I--I
CANNOT FORGET THAT HE
HAS ALREADY KILLED SO
MANY OF MY COMRADES-
IN-ARMS.

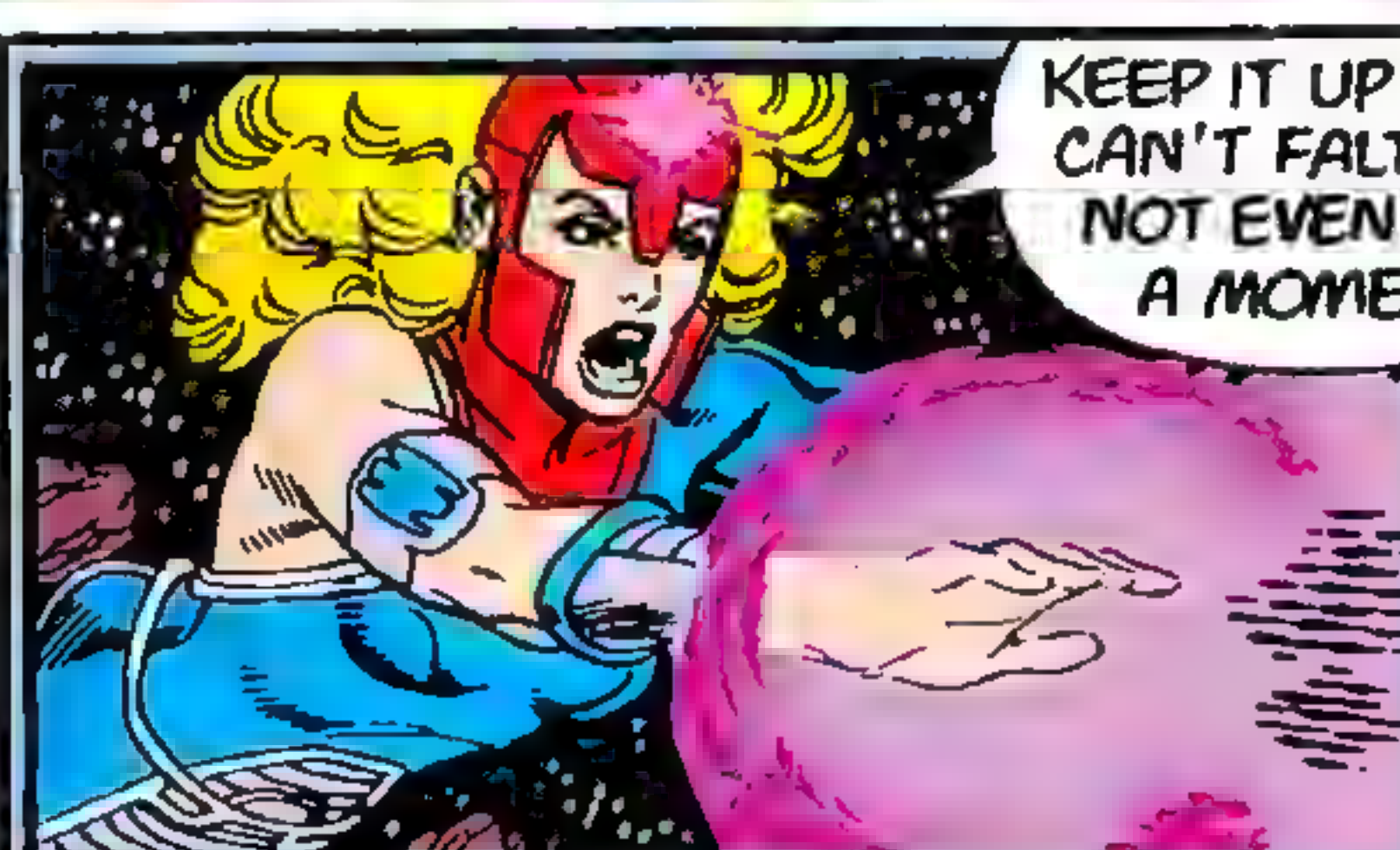


HE COULD JUST
AS EASILY SLAY
ME, TOO.

HE'S
STAGGERING.
THE DRAIN
ON HIS POWER
MUST BE
TERRIBLE.

THIS TIME
WE JUST
DIDN'T
ATTACK WITH
A MASSIVE
DISPLAY OF
FORCE.

WE HAD
A DEFINITE
PLAN, AND
IT'S WORKING!



KEEP IT UP! WE
CAN'T FALTER...
NOT EVEN FOR
A MOMENT.



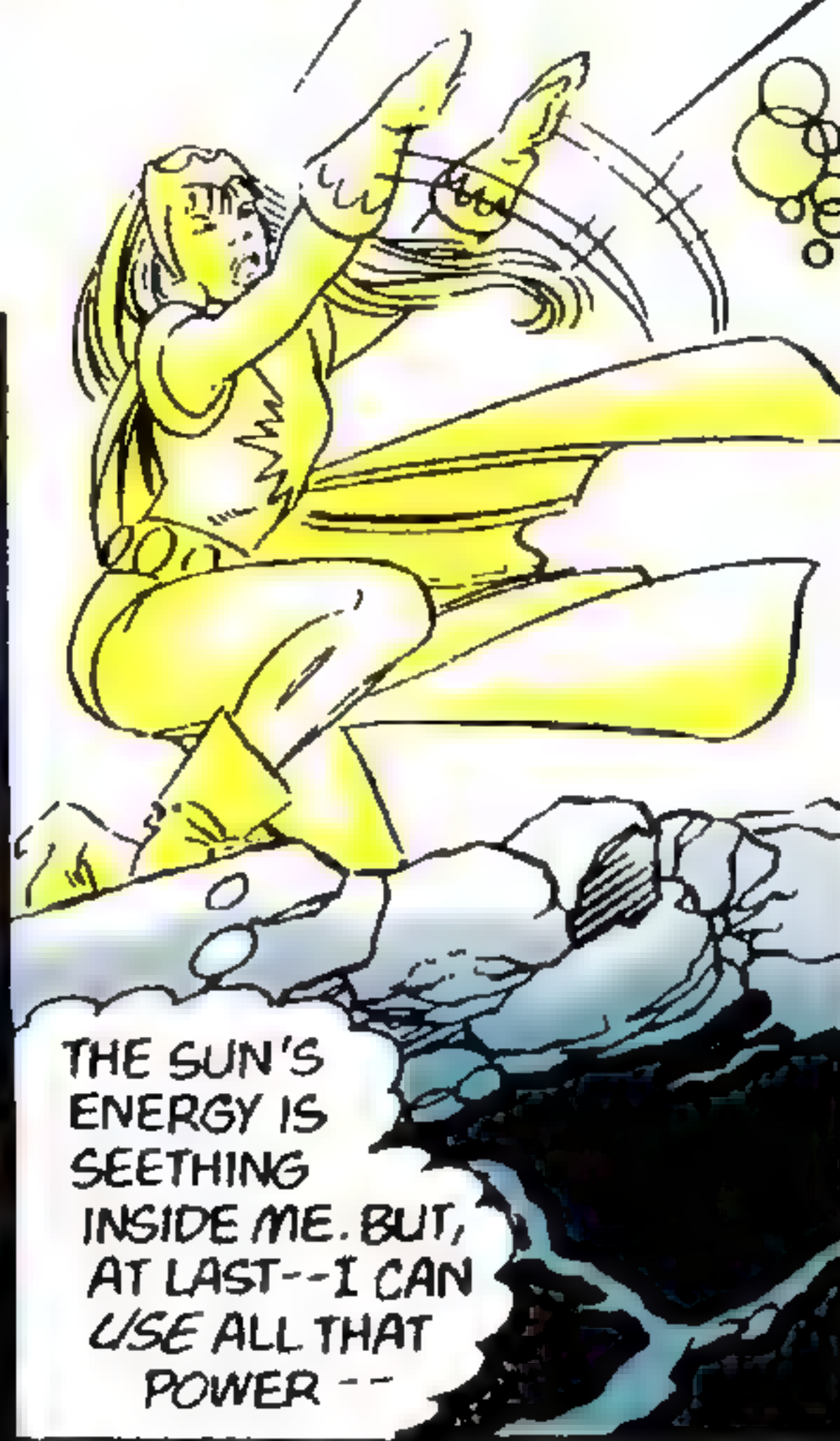
I'M EXHAUSTED...
THIS IS TOO
MUCH... TOO
HARD.



HE'S
FALLEN,
DOCTOR
LIGHT. DO
IT NOW!



THANK THE HEAVENS!
I COULD NOT HAVE
ABSORBED ANOTHER
ERG OF POWER.



THE SUN'S
ENERGY IS
SEETHING
INSIDE ME. BUT,
AT LAST--I CAN
USE ALL THAT
POWER --



--BY
FOCUSING
IT ONTO THE
ANTI-
MONITOR!

FOR JUST A MOMENT
THE ANTI-MONITOR'S
BODY EXPLODES WITH
LIGHT, HIS EVERY INTERNAL
ORGAN BURNING THROUGH
ARMOR AND FLESH.

HE IS SLAMMED INTO THE GROUND,
HIS BODY SMASHING THROUGH
STONE AND ROCK AS IF IT WERE
WATER.

DING-DONG,
THE WICKED
WITCH IS
DEAD. HE'S
DEAD, HE'S
REALLY
DEAD.

THAT'S IT.
HE'S DEAD.
IT'S OVER?

SO FAST? JUST LIKE THAT?
HECK, IF MY KNEES WEREN'T
STILL KNOCKING, I'D SAY
I WAS ALMOST
DISAPPOINTED.

TALK ABOUT
HAPPINESS,
TALK ABOUT
DELIGHT,
TALK ABOUT
JOY!

I KNOW. I WAS
EXPECTING MORE...
SATISFACTION.

ALEX LUTHOR'S
SUMMONING US.

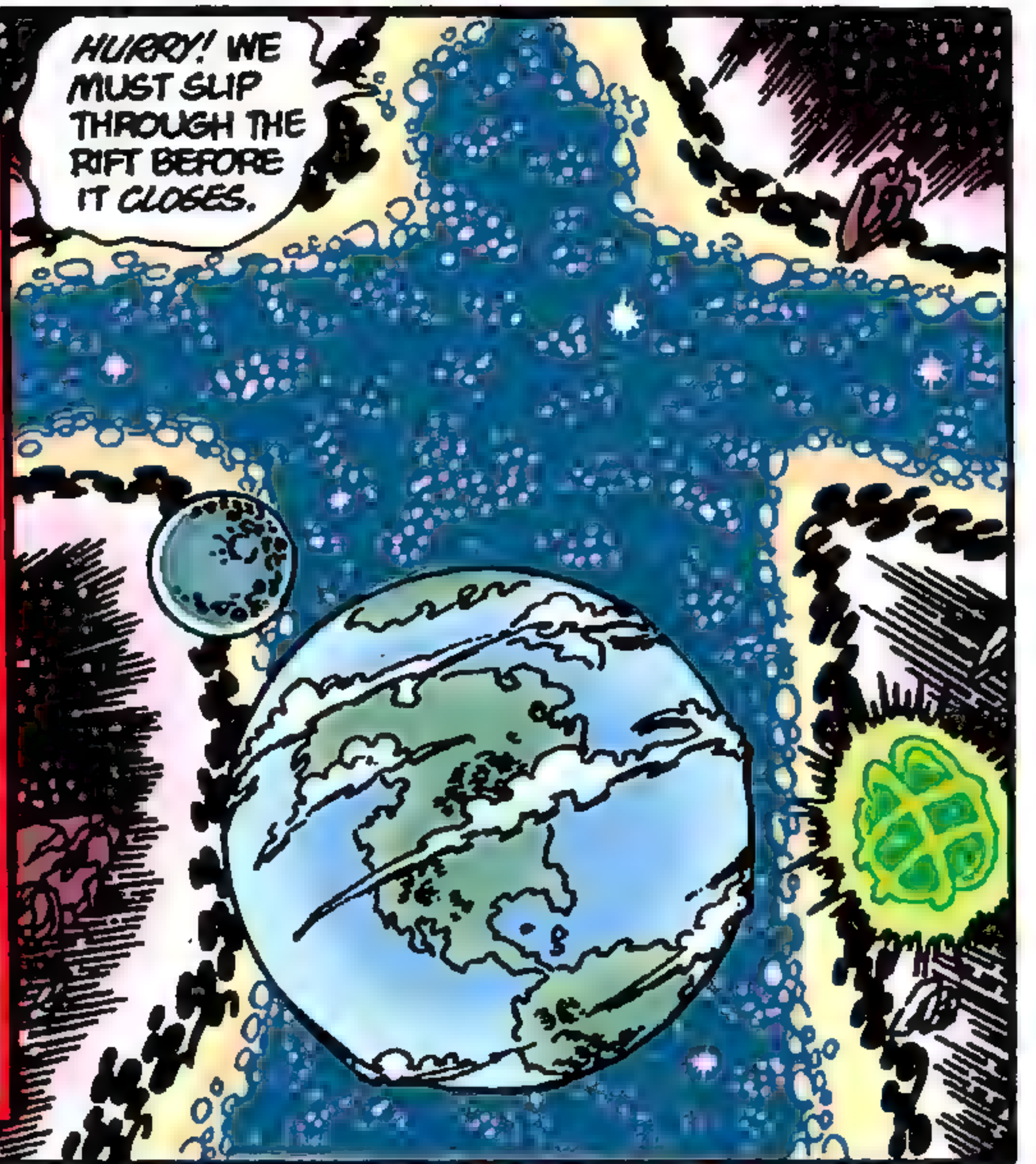
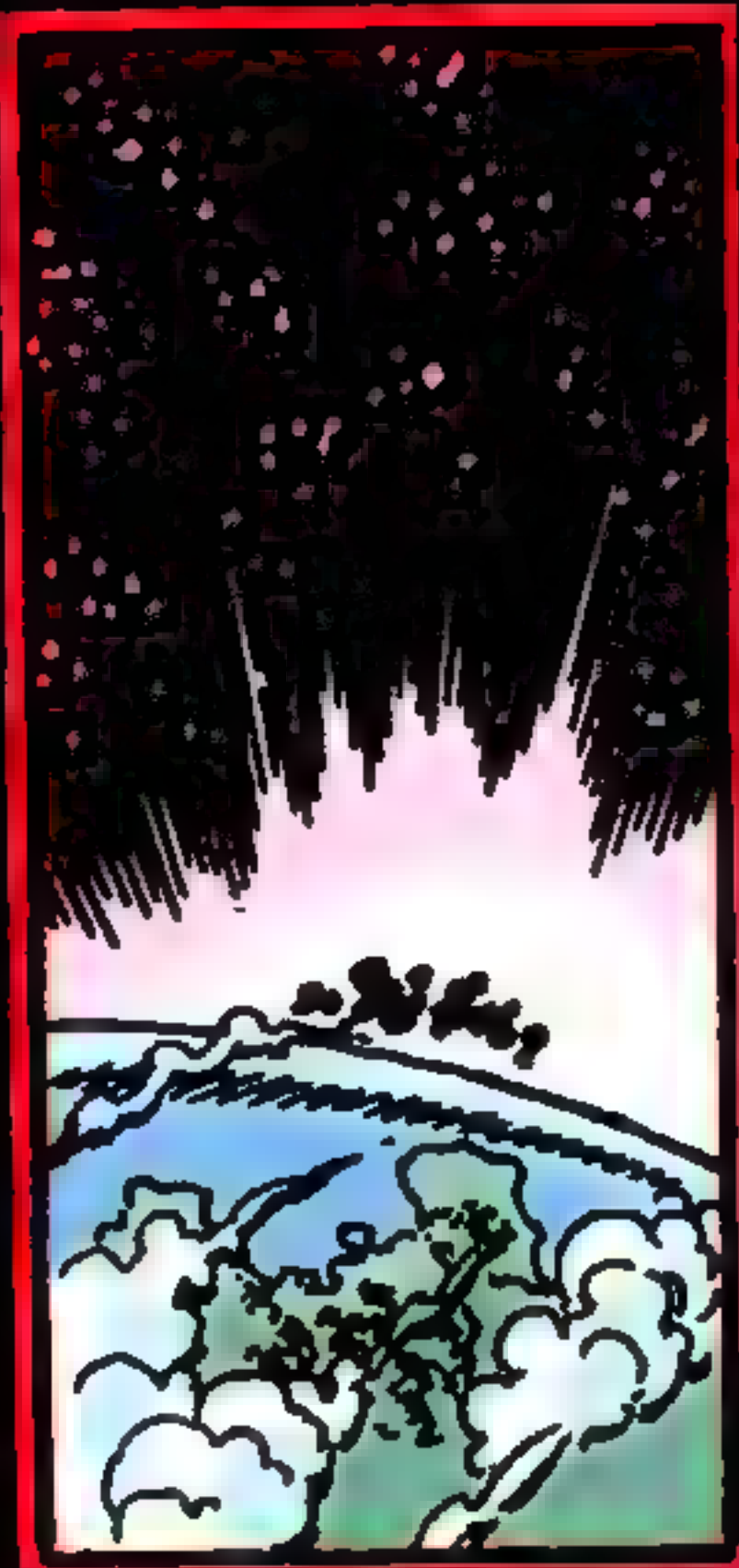
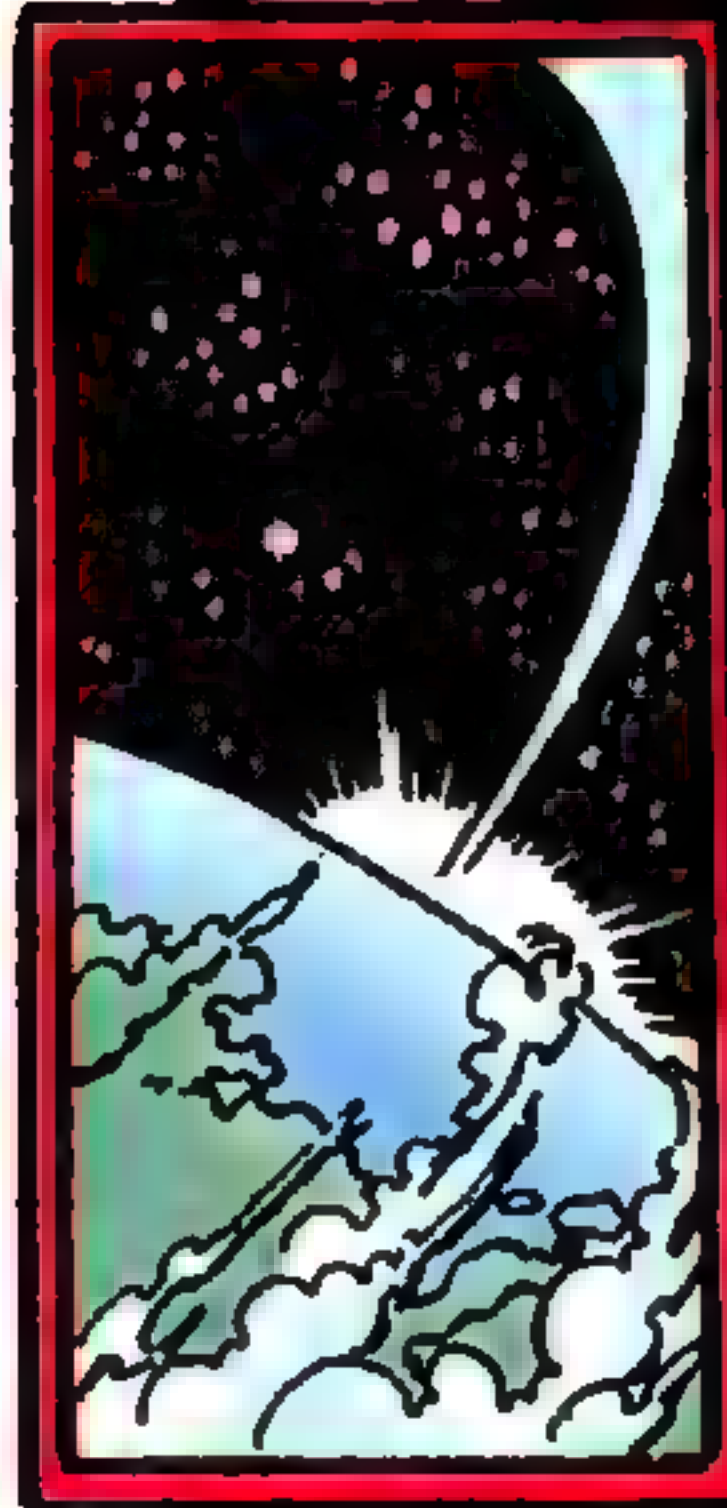
WITH THE
POWER I
ABSORBED
FROM THE
ANTI-MONITOR,
ADDED TO MY
OWN--

--I CAN PRY
OPEN A SPACE
BETWEEN THE
POSITIVE AND
NEGATIVE
UNIVERSES...

...LARGE ENOUGH TO
SLIDE THROUGH THE EARTH
AND RETURN IT TO ITS
NATURAL PLANE.

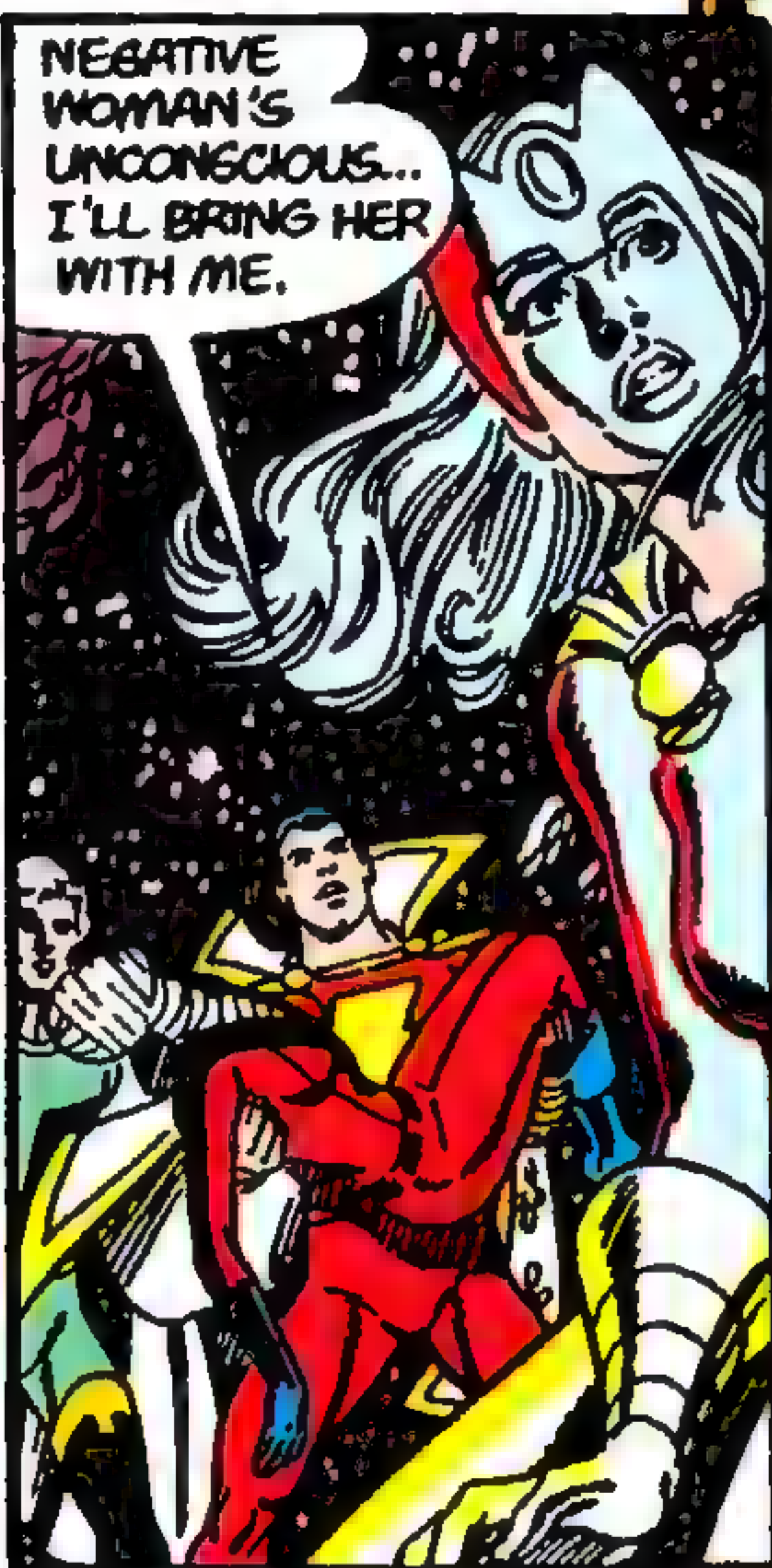
BUT MY POWER IS
NOT INFINITE. AND I
CAN'T KEEP THE PATHWAY
OPEN FOR LONG.
YOU MUST HURRY
THROUGH...

OTHERWISE WE AND
OUR WORLD WILL
REMAIN IN THIS ANTI-
MATTER UNIVERSE
FOREVER!

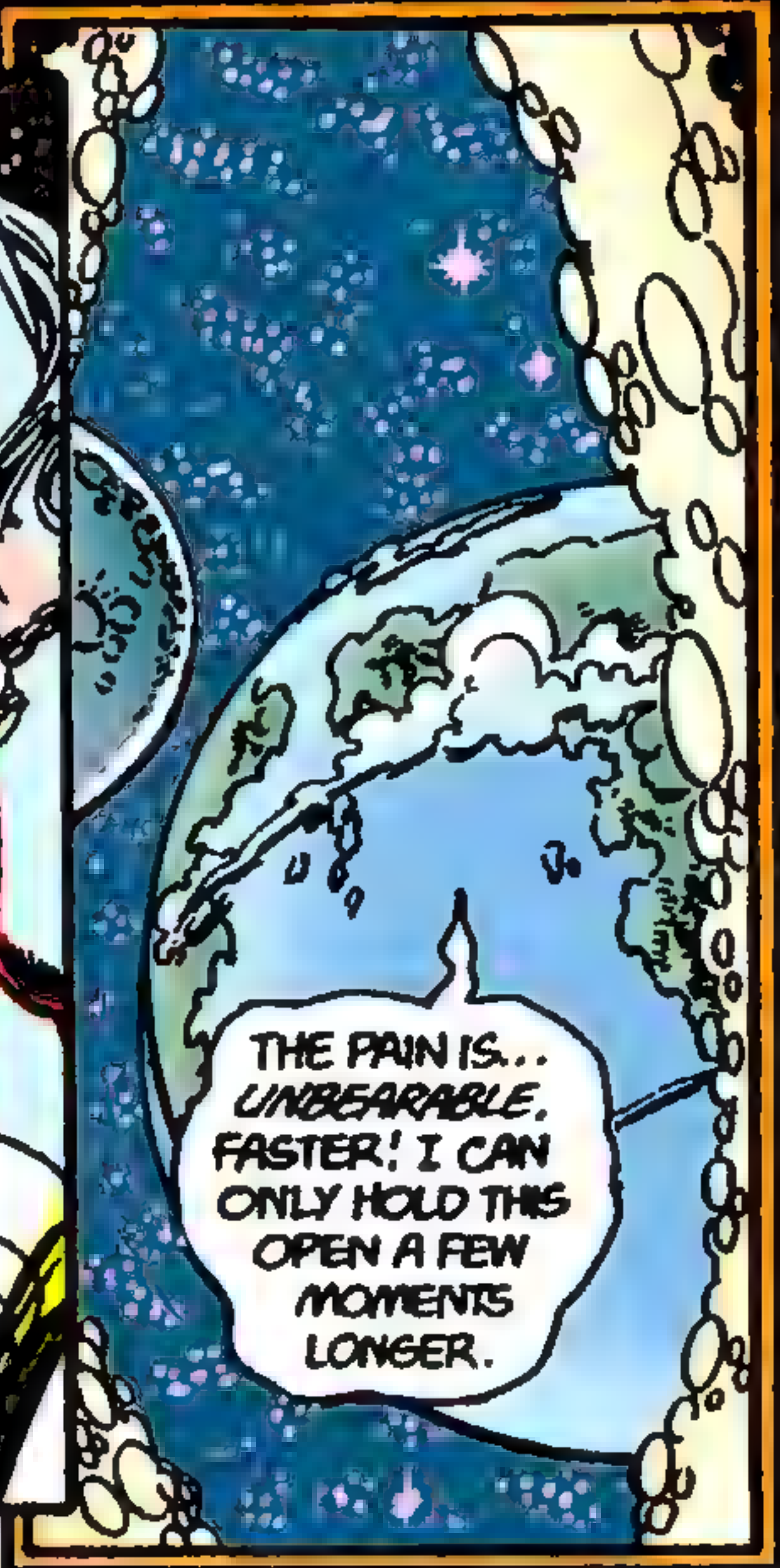


THE STRAIN... AND THE DRAIN OF POWER-- ARE BEYOND BELIEF!

HURRY! WE MUST SLIP THROUGH THE RIFT BEFORE IT CLOSES.



NEGATIVE WOMAN'S UNCONSCIOUS... I'LL BRING HER WITH ME.



THE PAIN IS... UNBEARABLE. FASTER! I CAN ONLY HOLD THIS OPEN A FEW MOMENTS LONGER.



C'MON, PSYCHO-PIRATE--MOVE IT!

FLASH... YOU SAVED ME JUST LIKE YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD.

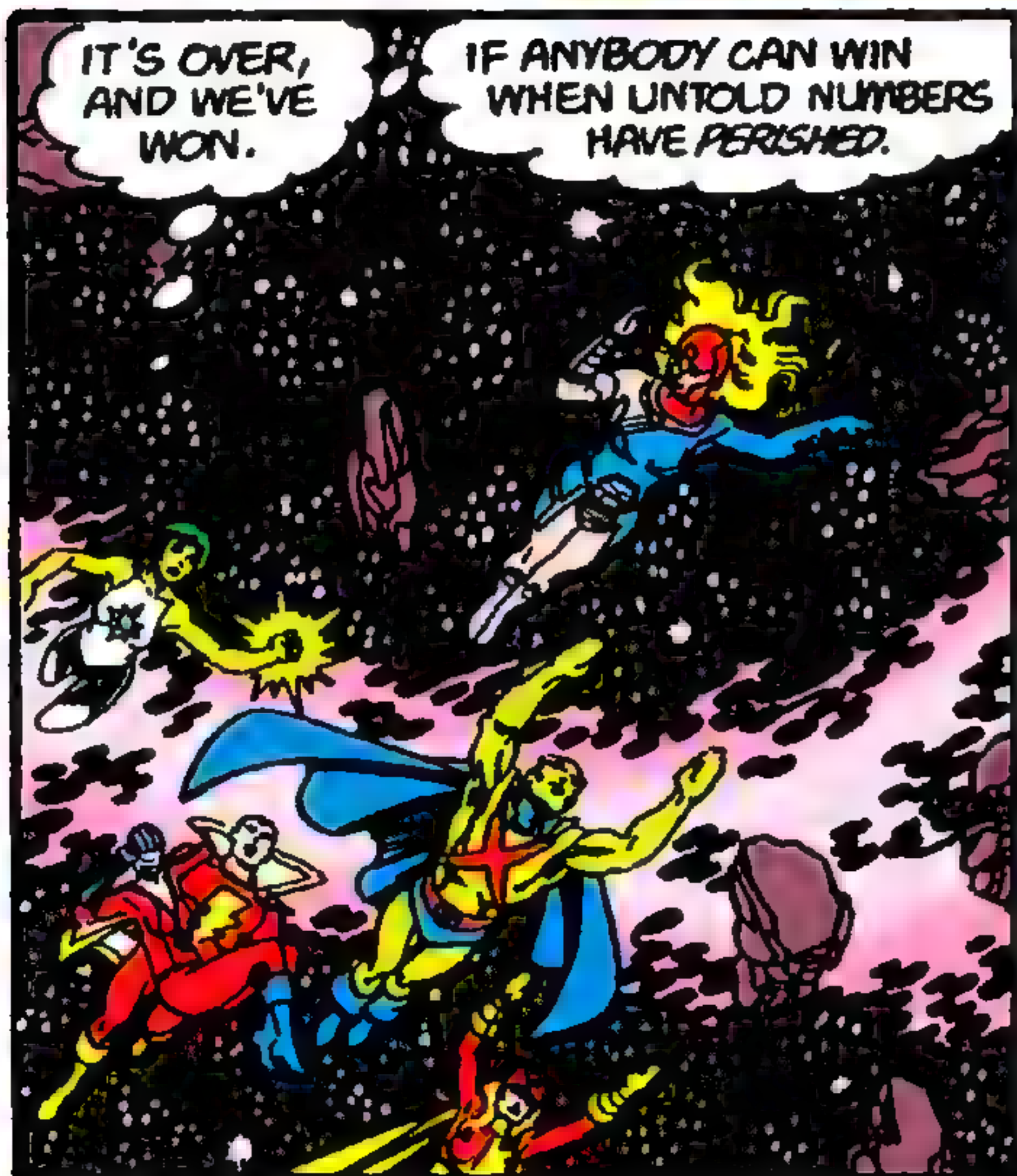
HE'S LOST HIS GRIP ON REALITY... HE'S TOTALLY OUT OF IT. I WANT TO HATE HIM, BUT I CAN'T.



C'MON, PIRATE, IT'S ALL OVER.

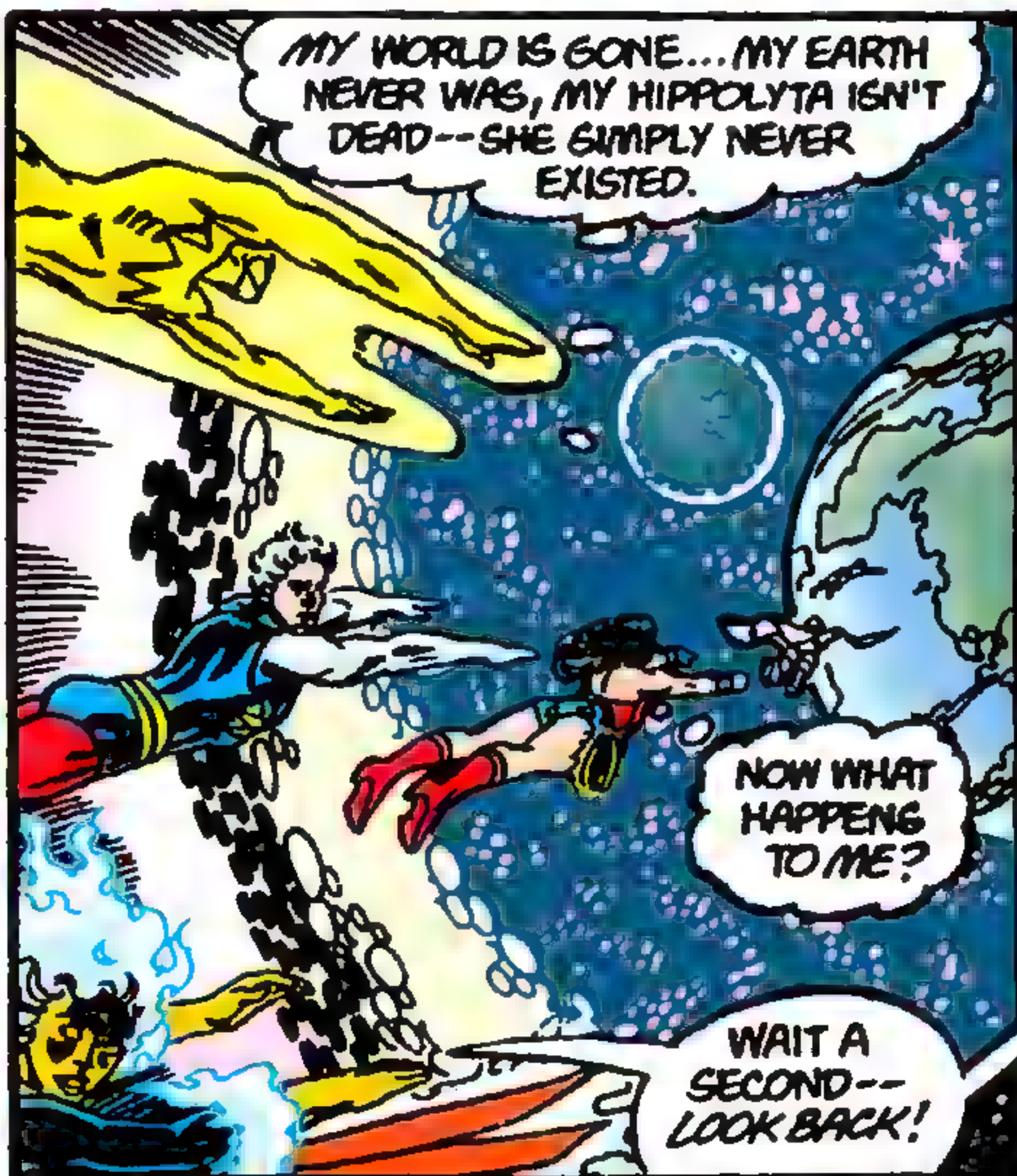


WE'RE GOING HOME NOW.



IT'S OVER, AND WE'VE WON.

IF ANYBODY CAN WIN WHEN UNTOLD NUMBERS HAVE PERISHED.



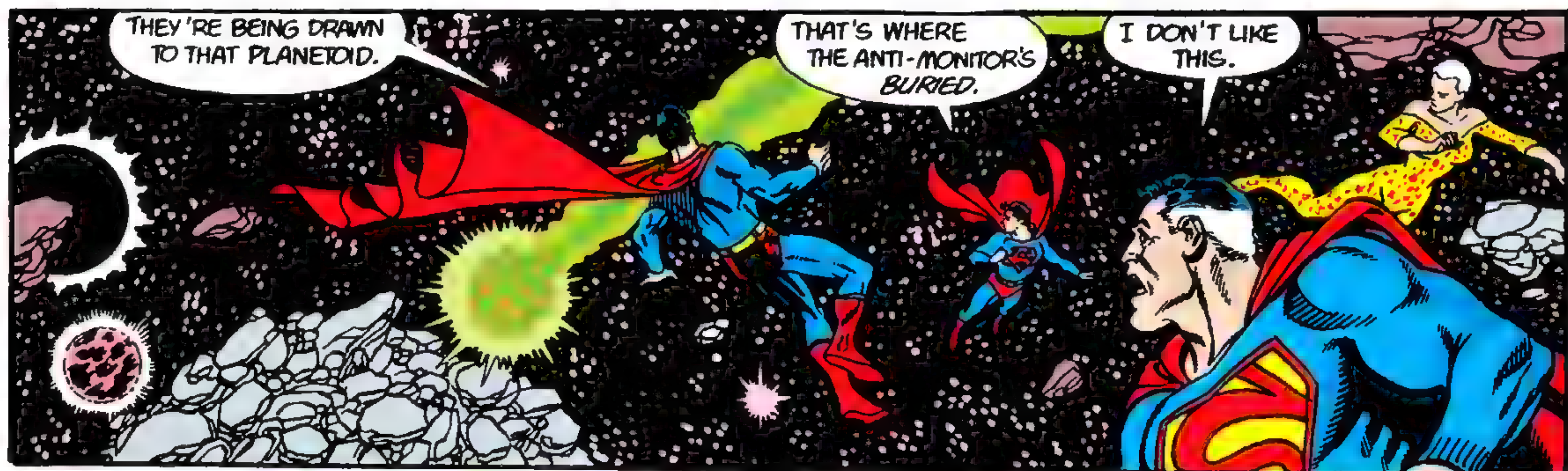
MY WORLD IS GONE... MY EARTH NEVER WAS, MY HIPPOLYTA ISN'T DEAD-- SHE SIMPLY NEVER EXISTED.

NOW WHAT HAPPENING TO ME?

WAIT A SECOND-- LOOK BACK!



SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO THE SHADOW DEMONS WE SEALED UP.



THEY'RE BEING DRAWN TO THAT PLANETOID.

THAT'S WHERE THE ANTI-MONITOR'S BURIED.

I DON'T LIKE THIS.

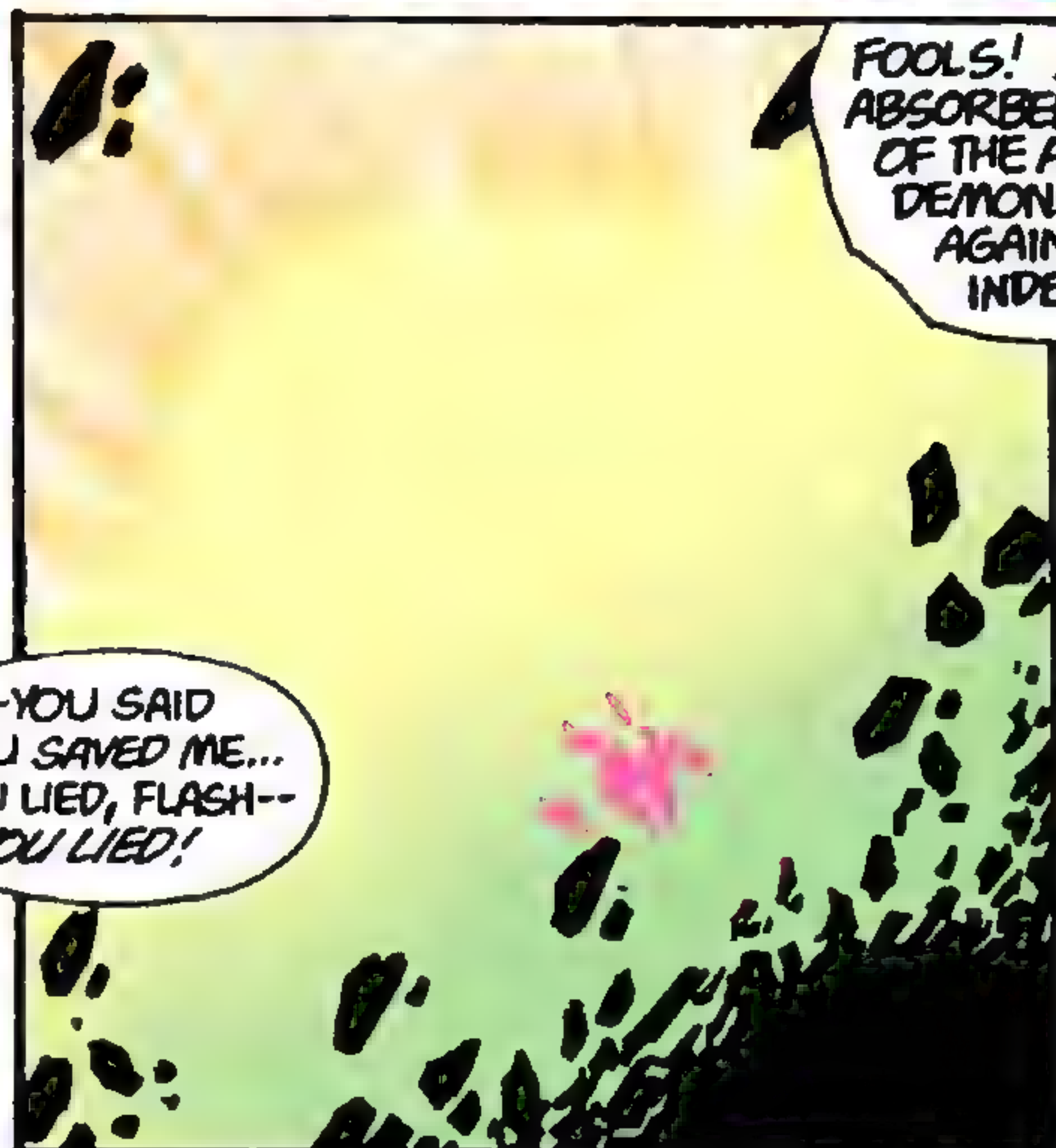


OH, NO... DON'T TELL ME ANYTHING BAD--I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT.

THE PLANET'S SHAKING.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO TELL ME ANYTHING BAD.

Y-YOU SAID YOU SAVED ME... YOU LIED, FLASH-- YOU LIED!



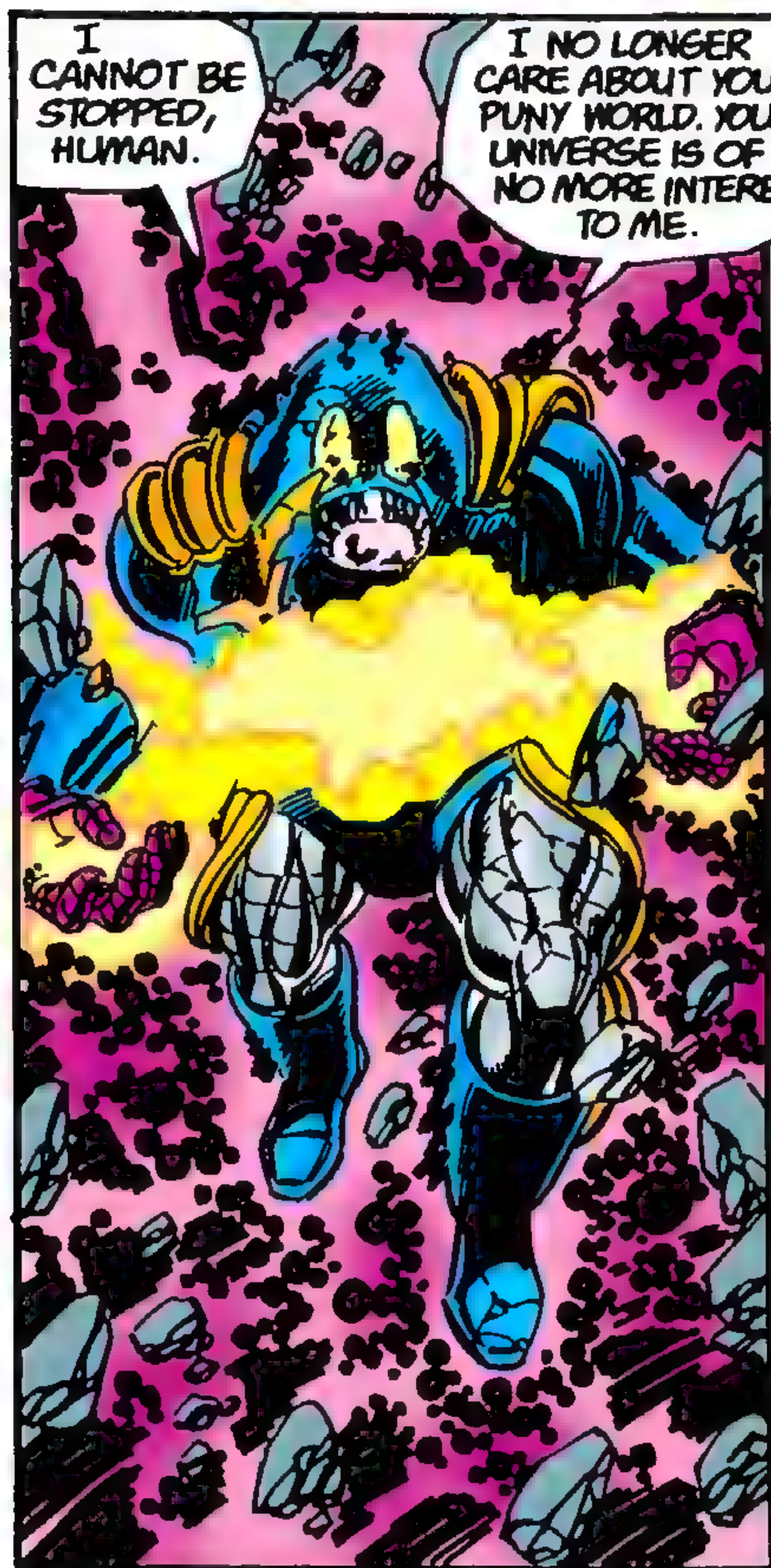
FOOLS! I HAVE ABSORBED THE POWER OF THE ANTI-MATTER DEMONS! ONCE AGAIN I AM INDESTRUCTIBLE!

DON'T STOP-- WE MUST RUSH THROUGH THE PORTAL.

THERE'S NO TIME! HURRY!



PARIAH-- WE HAVE TO STOP HIM.



I CANNOT BE STOPPED, HUMAN.

I NO LONGER CARE ABOUT YOUR PUNY WORLD. YOUR UNIVERSE IS OF NO MORE INTEREST TO ME.

BUT YOU HUMANS --YOU WHO HAVE THWARTED MY EVERY MOVE--



-- I SWEAR ALL THE POWER AT MY COMMAND SHALL BE USED TO DESTROY YOU!



WONDER WOMAN?!?

GREAT KRYPTON! HE'S KILLED HER. JUST LIKE HE KILLED KARA.

I--I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY LIFE. I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN STOPPING HIM...

...AND DESTROYING HIM!

I MANAGED TO SAVE KID FLASH AND THE PIRATE JUST AS MONNY'S BLAST HIT US.

ONLY THEY'RE NOT IN THE BEST OF SHAPE--

--AND CERTAINLY NOT READY TO TAKE ON GODZILLA'S BIGGER BROTHER.

I'LL FLY 'EM TO THE POSITIVE MATTER UNIVERSE, THEN HOP BACK TO LEND AN ATOMICALLY POWERED HAND.

NO! STAY THERE. I CAN HANDLE THIS MYSELF.

WHAT?

BOTH OF YOU CAN FORGET IT.

SORRY, BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY.

AGHHH.

NOT AS LONG AS I AM HERE, SUPERMAN.

YOU PEOPLE HAVE TOO MUCH TO LIVE FOR. I DON'T...NOT ANY LONGER.

IN OUR REBORN UNIVERSE MY KRYPTON NEVER EXISTED.

THAT MEANS I DON'T EXIST.

AND I DON'T WANT TO--NOT WITHOUT THE WOMAN I LOVE. TAKE THEM BACK TO EARTH AND STAY THERE.

I KNOW WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

DO WHAT I SAY, AND NO ARGUMENTS.

EVERYONE SAYS HE WAS THE FIRST TRUE HERO. NOW I SEE WHY.

HE'S THE MOST INCREDIBLE MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

I'LL PRAY FOR YOU, SUPERMAN... I REALLY WILL.

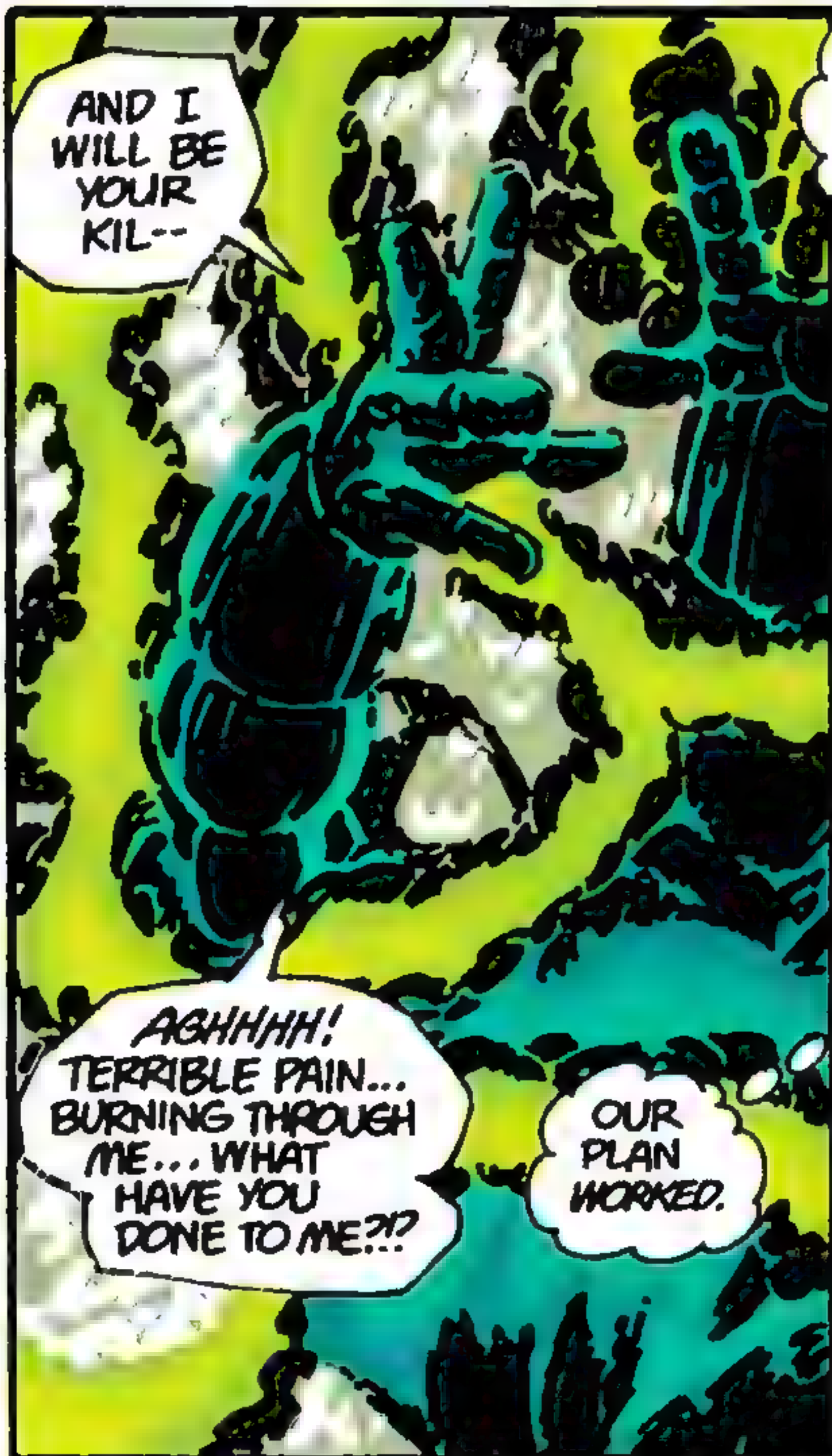
YOU STAYED BEHIND, KRYPTONIAN? THEN YOU ARE THE GREATEST FOOL I HAVE EVER KNOWN.

...BUT SOMEBODY HAD TO CLEAN UP THE GARBAGE!

UGLY, YOU MAY BE RIGHT...

GUESS I WAS ELECTED.

THEN YOU WILL DIE!



AND I
WILL BE
YOUR
KIL--

AGHHHH!
TERRIBLE PAIN...
BURNING THROUGH
ME... WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE TO ME??

OUR
PLAN
WORKED.

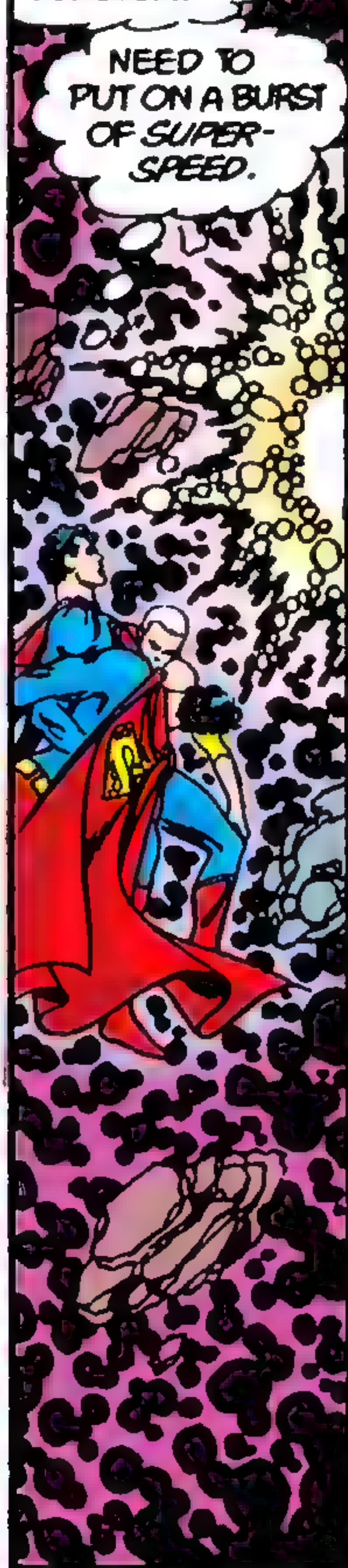
THE SHADOW DEMONS
WERE CREATED OUT OF THE
ANTI-MONITOR'S OWN POWER.
WE KNEW HE'D ABSORB
THEM WHEN OUR ATTACK
BEGAN.



BUT THE DEMONS
WERE CHANGED BY
THE SORCERERS...
INSTEAD OF RE-
POWERING THE
ANTI-MONITOR,
THEY'RE
DESTROYING
HIM FROM
INSIDE.

THAT LAST
BLOW SENT
HIM REELING...
IT'S WORKING--
BUT HE'S STILL
TOO STRONG.

THE WAY BACK TO
EARTH IS CLOSING...
ONLY A FEW MORE
SECONDS BEFORE
IT'S SEALED
FOREVER.

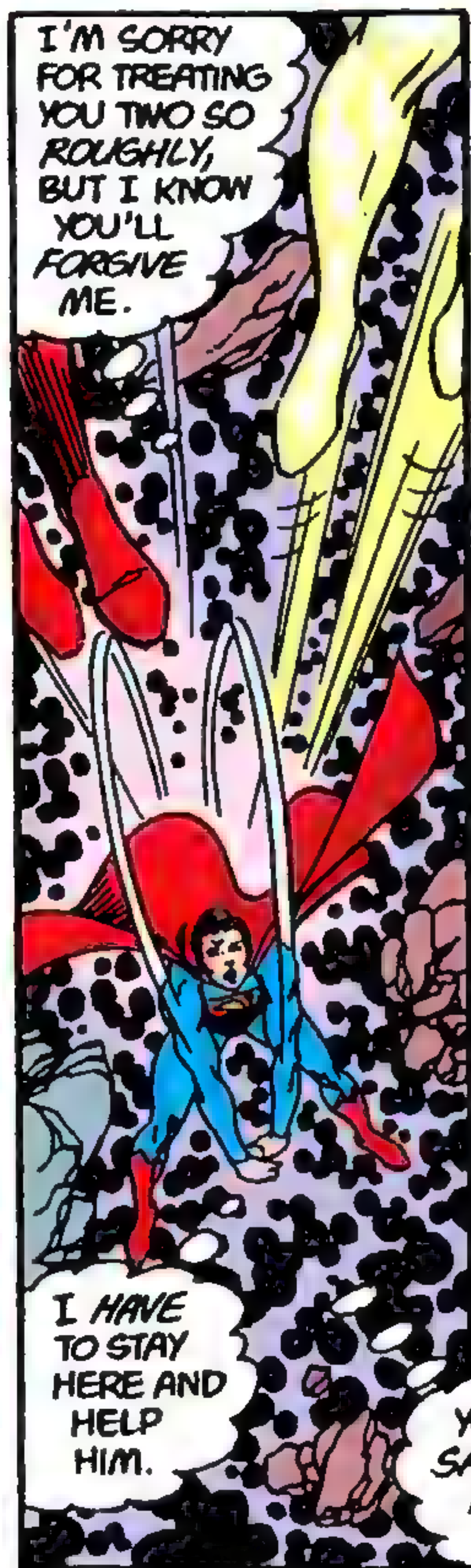


NEED TO
PUT ON A BURST
OF SUPER-
SPEED.



BUT WHAT'S WAITING
FOR ME THERE?
NOTHING!

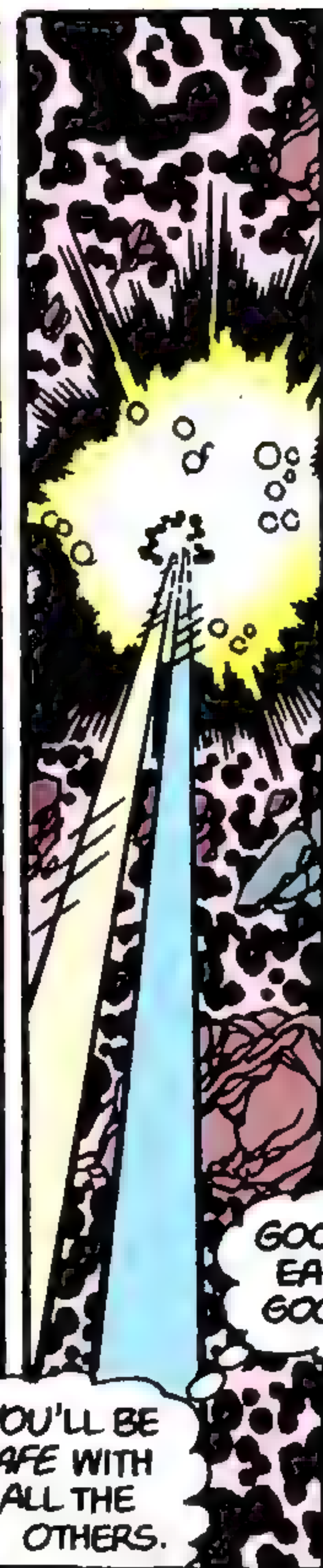
AND IF I GO, SUPERMAN
WILL BE FIGHTING THAT
THING ALONE. HE NEEDS
ME... AND I NEED HIM,
TOO.



I'M SORRY
FOR TREATING
YOU TWO SO
ROUGHLY,
BUT I KNOW
YOU'LL
FORGIVE
ME.

I HAVE
TO STAY
HERE AND
HELP
HIM.

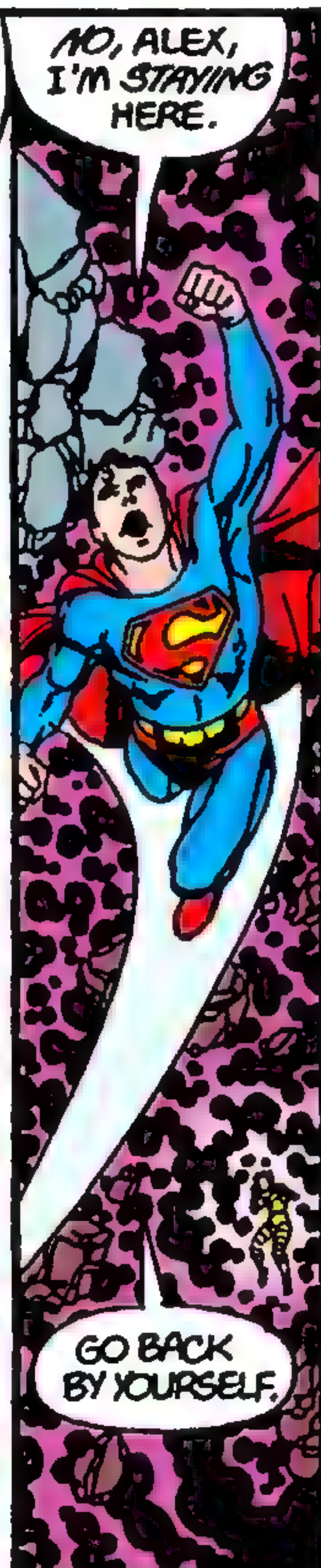
YOU'LL BE
SAFE WITH
ALL THE
OTHERS.



GOOD-BYE,
EARTH...
GOOD-BYE.



SUPERBOY, I-I
CANNOT HOLD
THE RIFT OPEN
ANY LONGER.
HURRY.



NO, ALEX,
I'M STAYING
HERE.

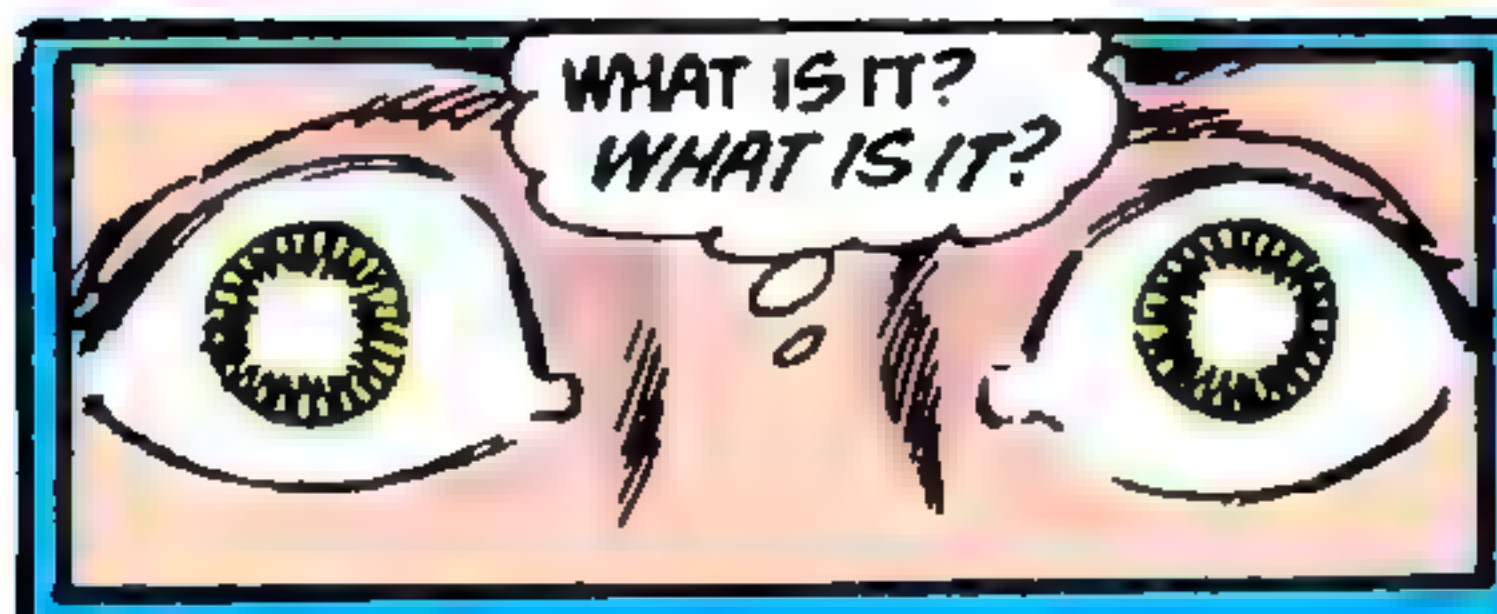
GO BACK
BY YOURSELF.



I--I CANNOT...
THE RIFT HAD TO
BE SEALED FROM
THIS SIDE.

WAIT... I SENSE
SOMETHING
WRONG... A
SURGE OF
POWER.

SOMETHING
IS
HAPPENING
--TO ME!

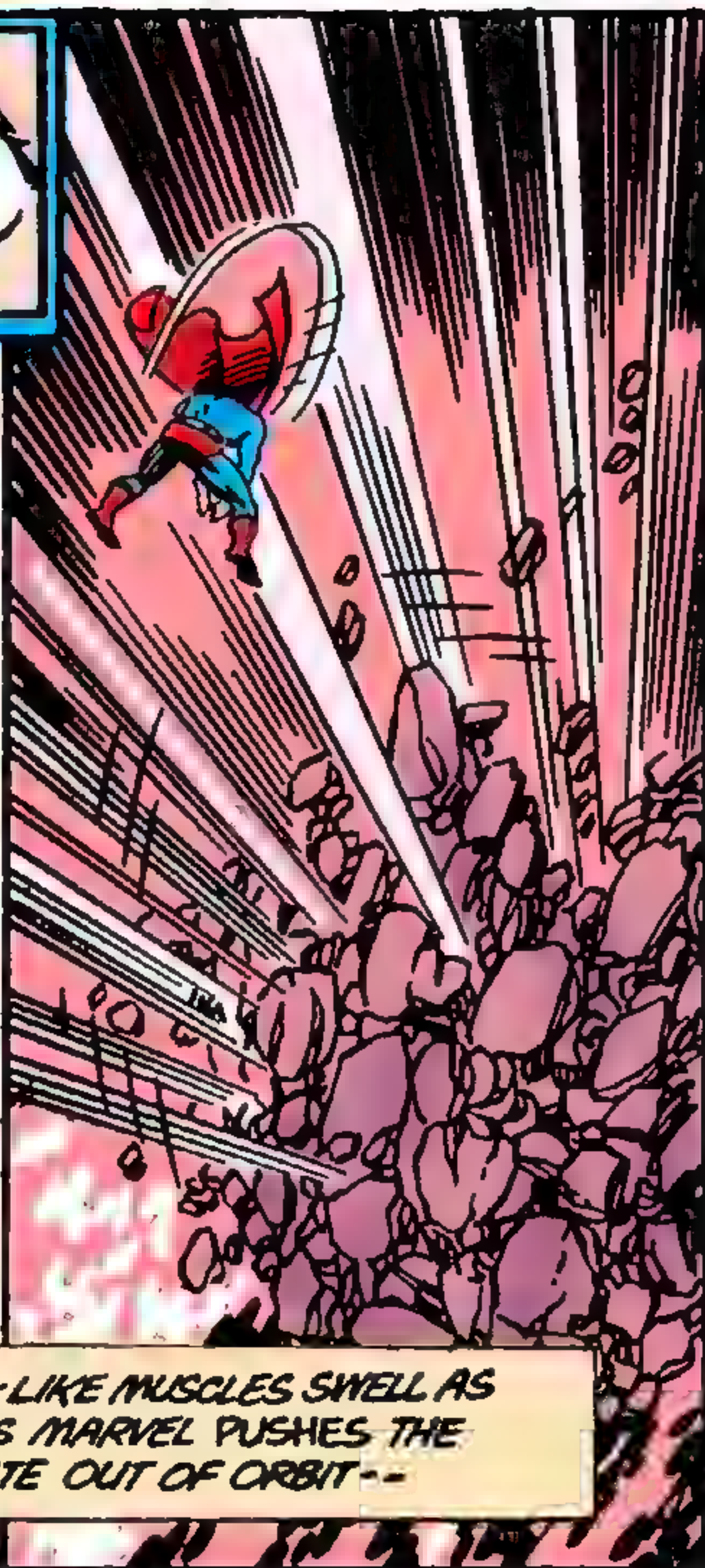


WHAT IS IT?
WHAT IS IT?

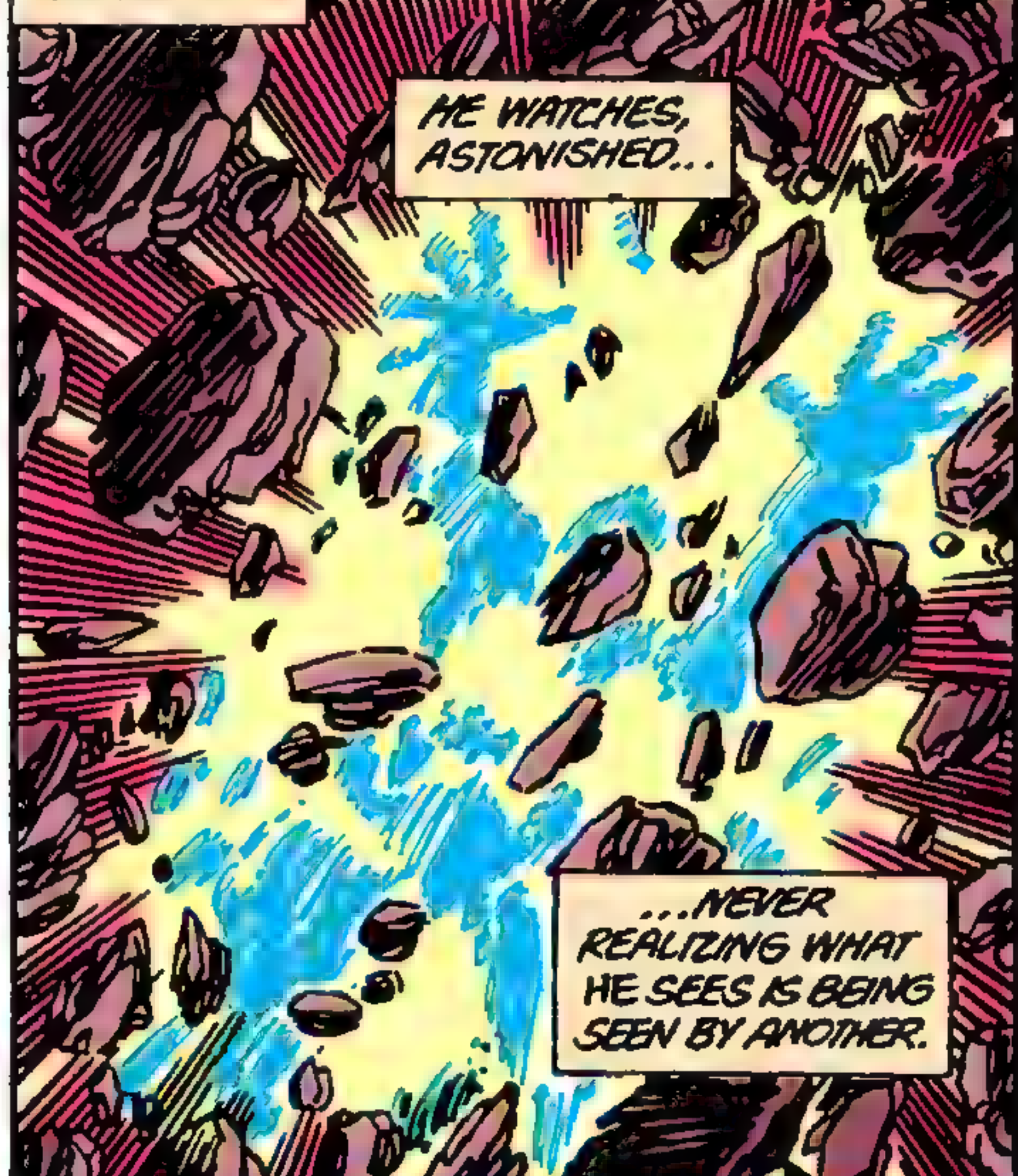


ALEX'S EYES OPEN WIDE,
AND HE WATCHES THE
MAN OF TOMORROW
SPEED TOWARD A
NEARBY MOON.

HE SEES STEEL-LIKE MUSCLES SWELL AS
THE METROPOLIS MARVEL PUSHES THE
SATELLITE OUT OF ORBIT--



-- SMASHING IT INTO THE RAMPAGING ANTI-MONITOR.



HE WATCHES,
ASTONISHED...

...NEVER
REALIZING WHAT
HE SEES IS BEING
SEEN BY ANOTHER.



SUPERMAN POSSESSES
POWER BEYOND
COMPREHENSION...

...BUT EVEN
HE IS NOT
MIGHTY ENOUGH
TO DEFEAT THE
ANTI-MONITOR
ALONE.

YOU
HUMANS
WERE
"RIGHT"
TO COME
TO ME.

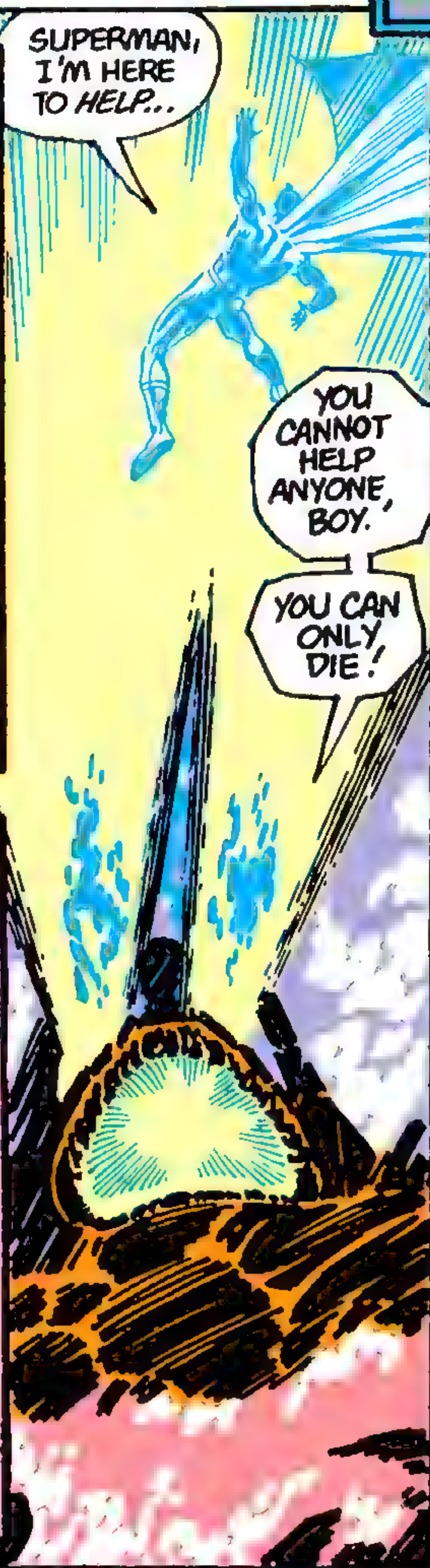
HOW CAN
YOU SEE INTO
THE ANTIMATTER
UNIVERSE?



YOUR ALEX LUTHOR
IS A "CONDUIT"
BETWEEN UNIVERSES.



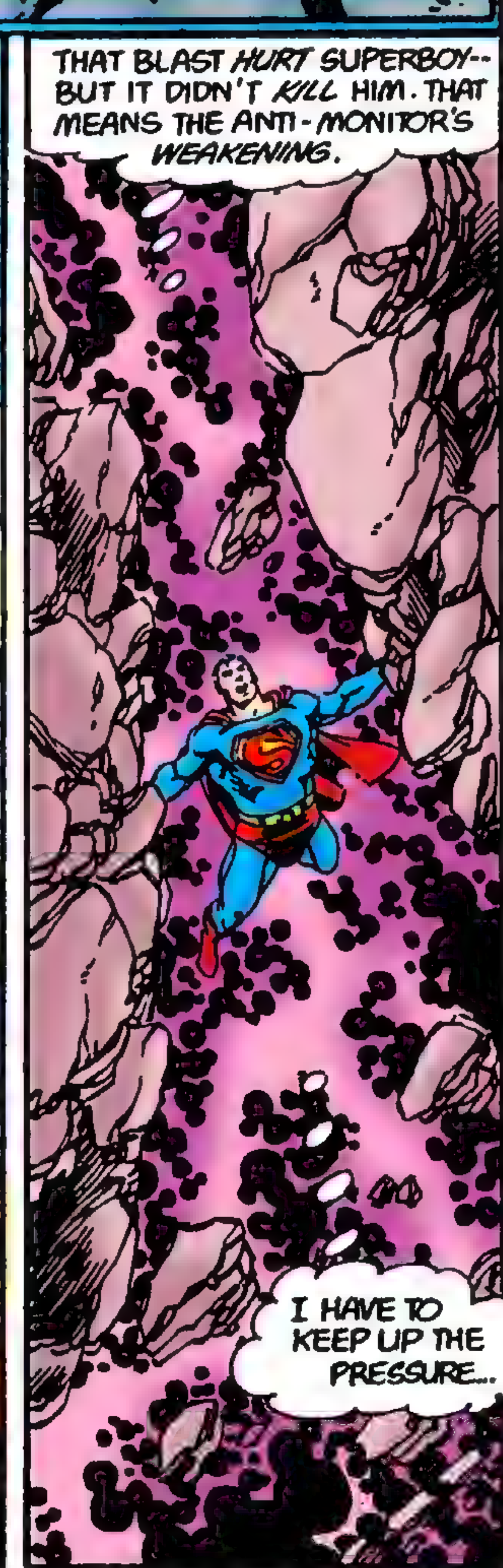
MY SCIENCE
PERMITS ME TO
GAZE THROUGH
HIS EYES.



SUPERMAN,
I'M HERE
TO HELP...

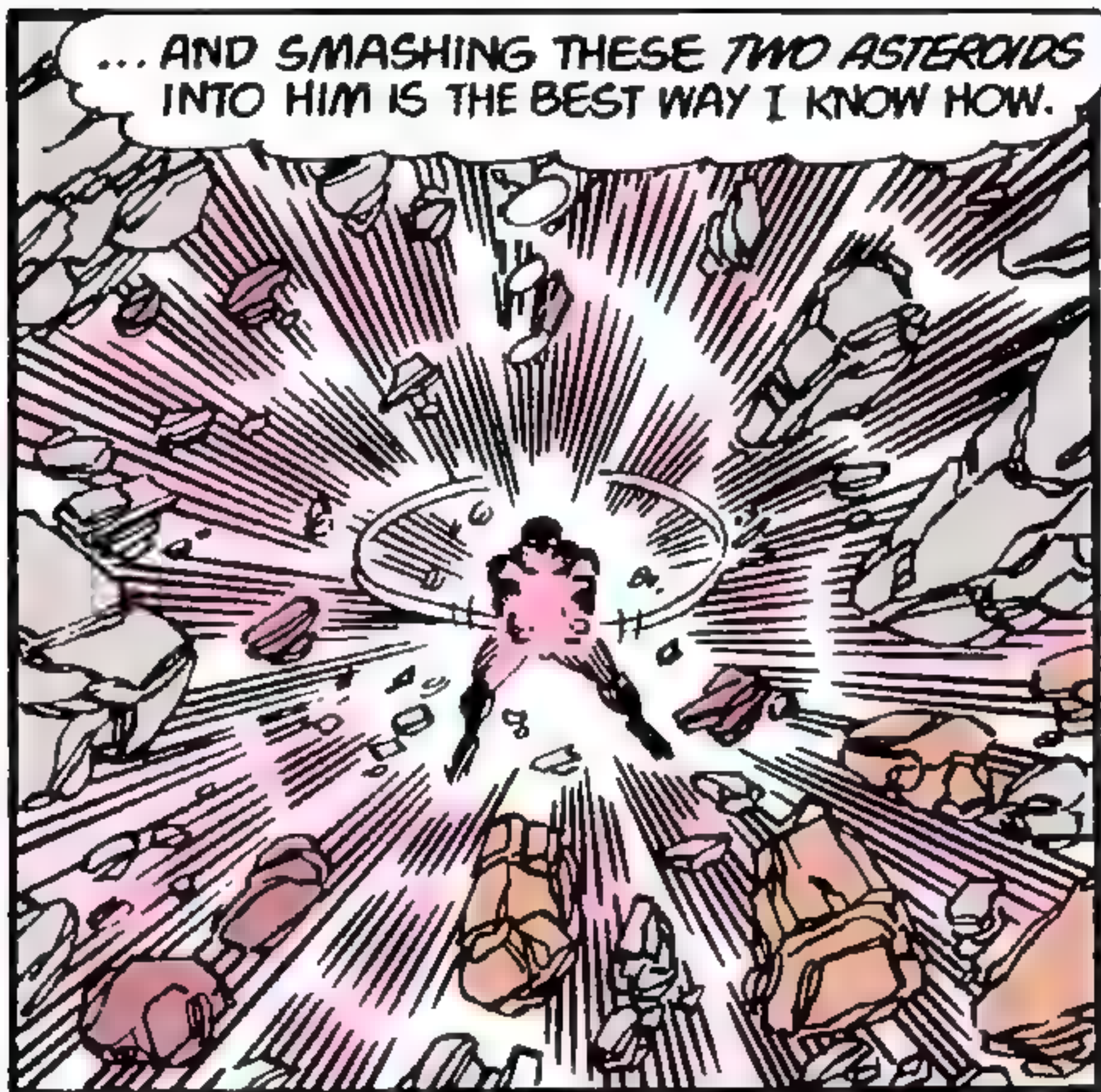
YOU
CANNOT
HELP
ANYONE,
BOY.

YOU CAN
ONLY
DIE!

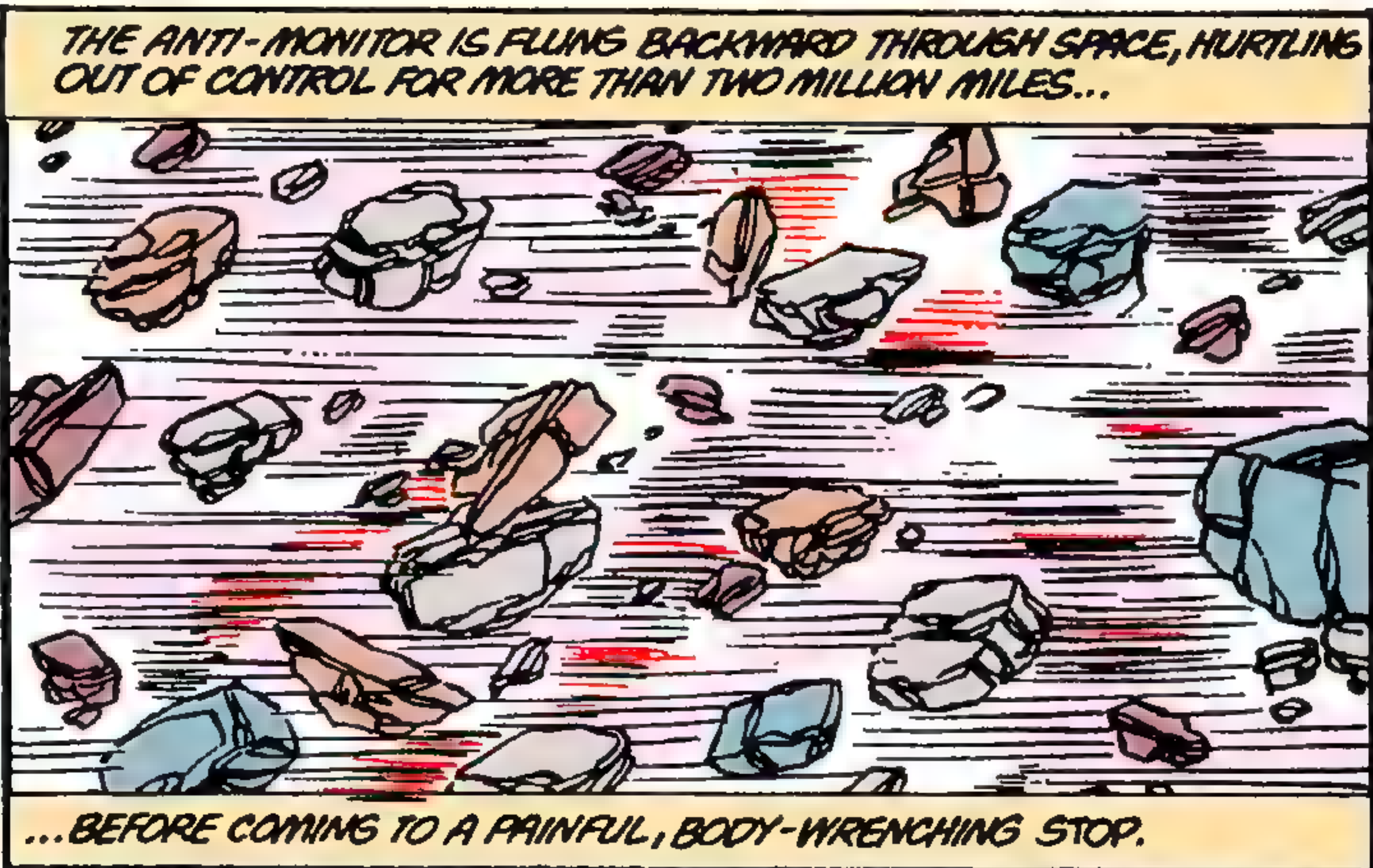


THAT BLAST HURT SUPERBOY--
BUT IT DIDN'T KILL HIM. THAT
MEANS THE ANTI-MONITOR'S
WEAKENING.

I HAVE TO
KEEP UP THE
PRESSURE...

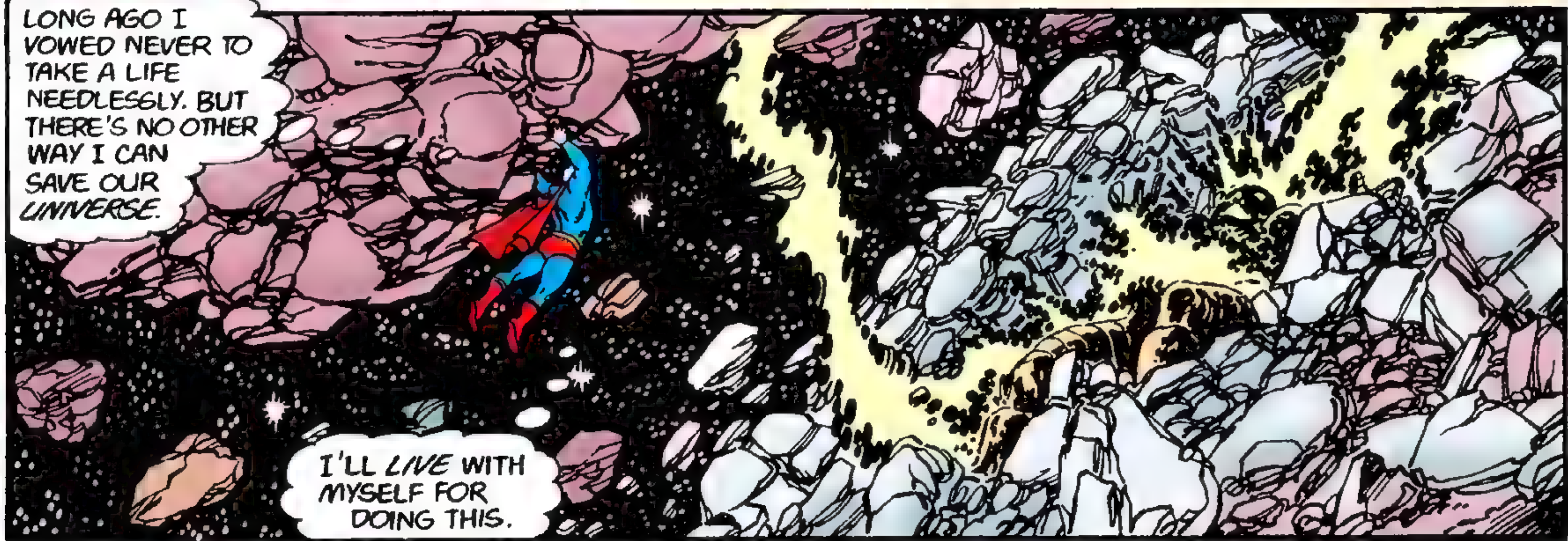


... AND SMASHING THESE TWO ASTEROIDS INTO HIM IS THE BEST WAY I KNOW HOW.



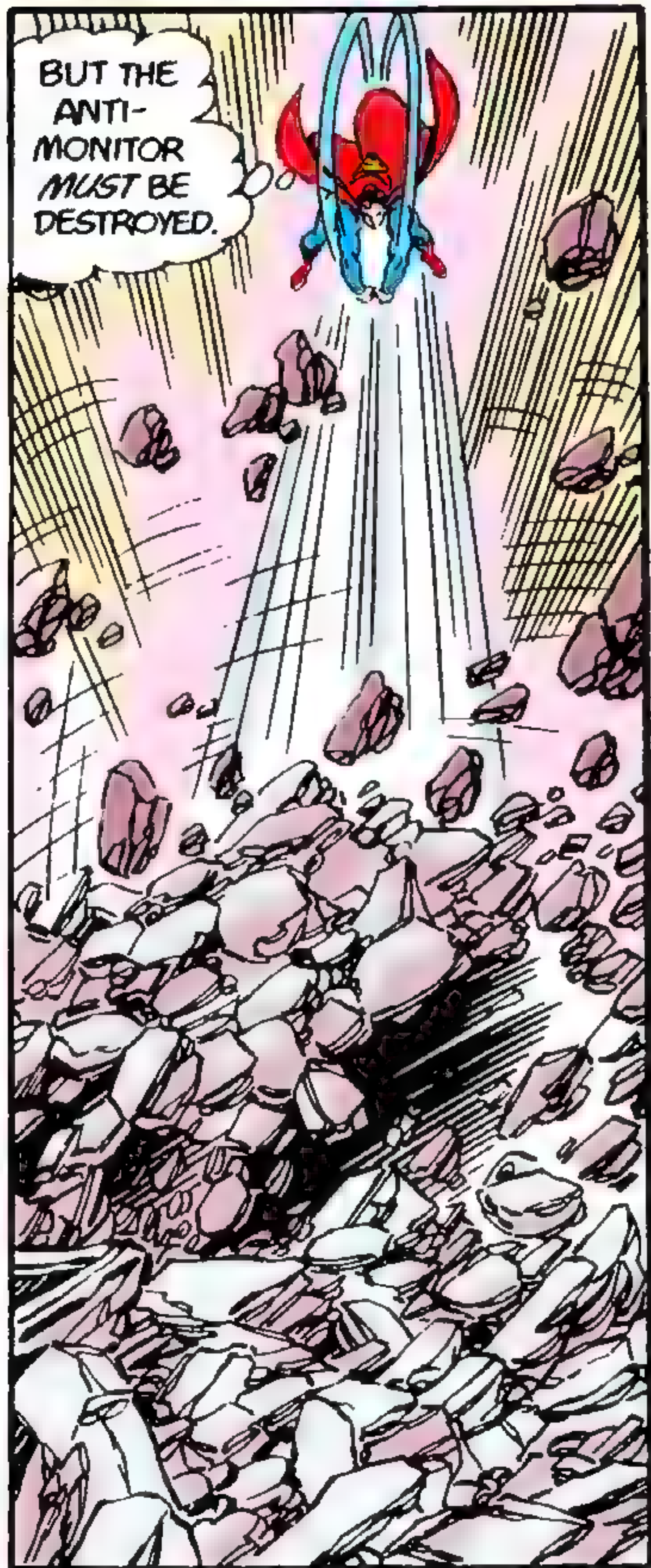
THE ANTI-MONITOR IS FLUNG BACKWARD THROUGH SPACE, HURLING OUT OF CONTROL FOR MORE THAN TWO MILLION MILES...

...BEFORE COMING TO A PAINFUL, BODY-WRENCHING STOP.

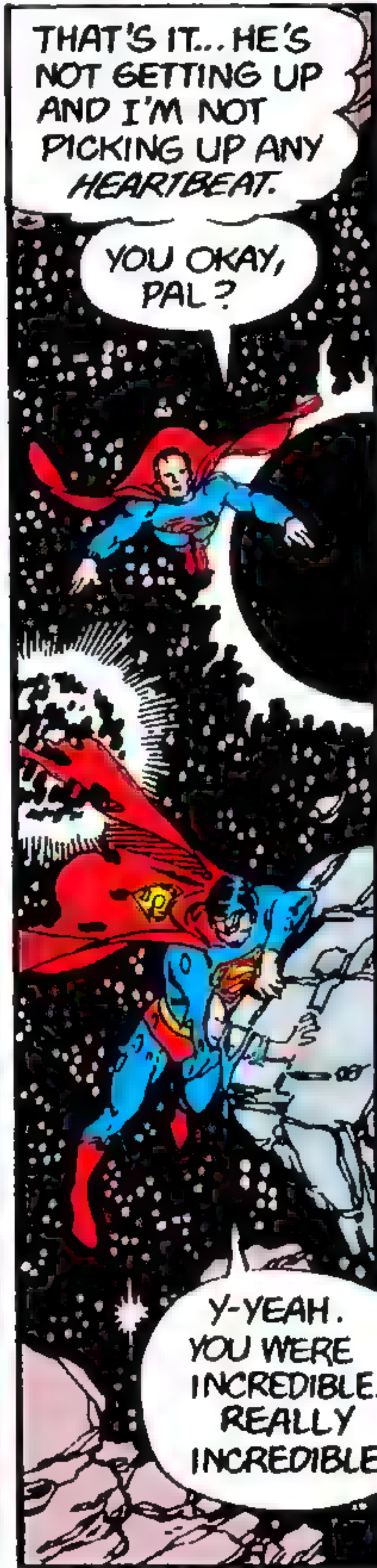


LONG AGO I VOWED NEVER TO TAKE A LIFE NEEDLESSLY. BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY I CAN SAVE OUR UNIVERSE.

I'LL LIVE WITH MYSELF FOR DOING THIS.



BUT THE ANTI-MONITOR MUST BE DESTROYED.



THAT'S IT... HE'S NOT GETTING UP AND I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY HEARTBEAT.

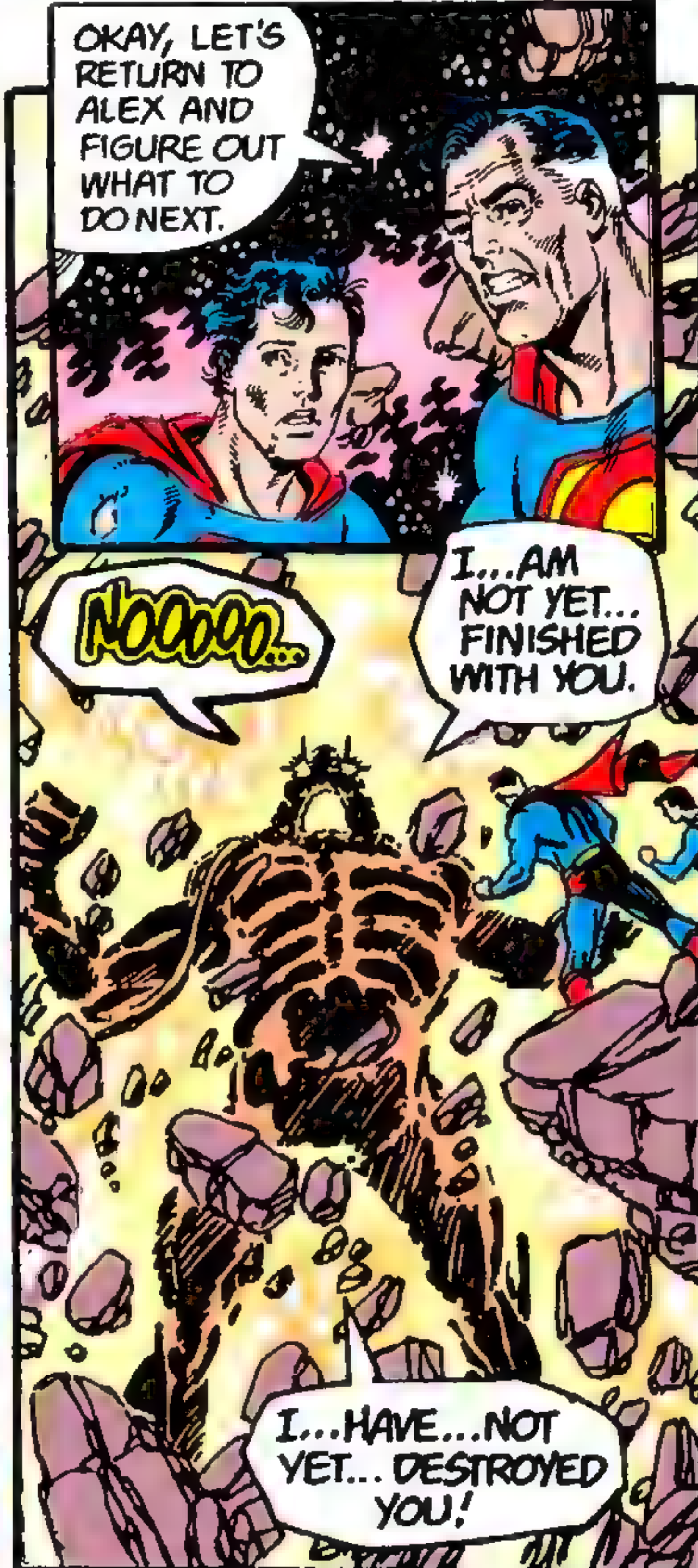
YOU OKAY, PAL?

Y-YEAH. YOU WERE INCREDIBLE... REALLY INCREDIBLE.



I D-DON'T BELIEVE I'M STILL ALIVE.

THANK HEAVEN YOU ARE.

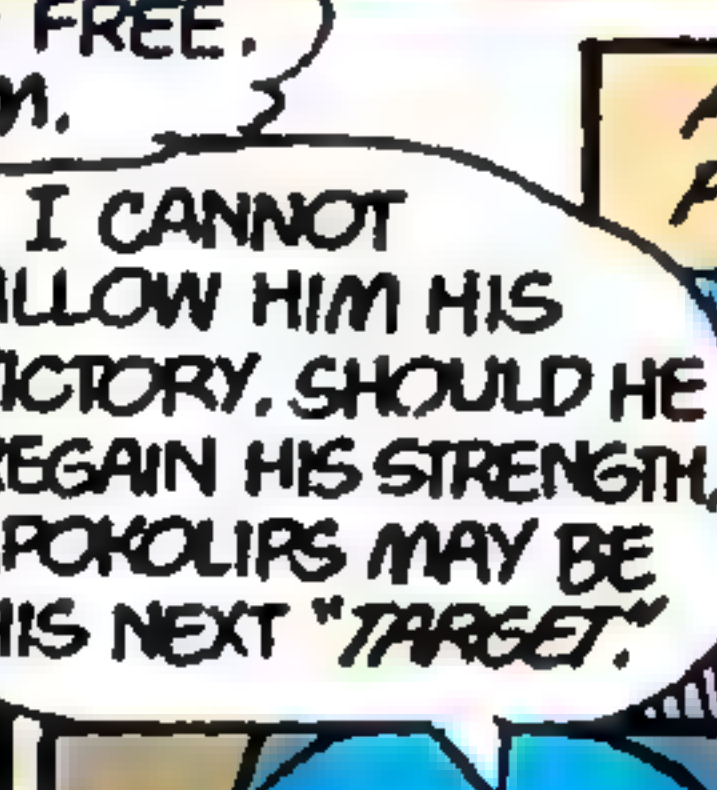
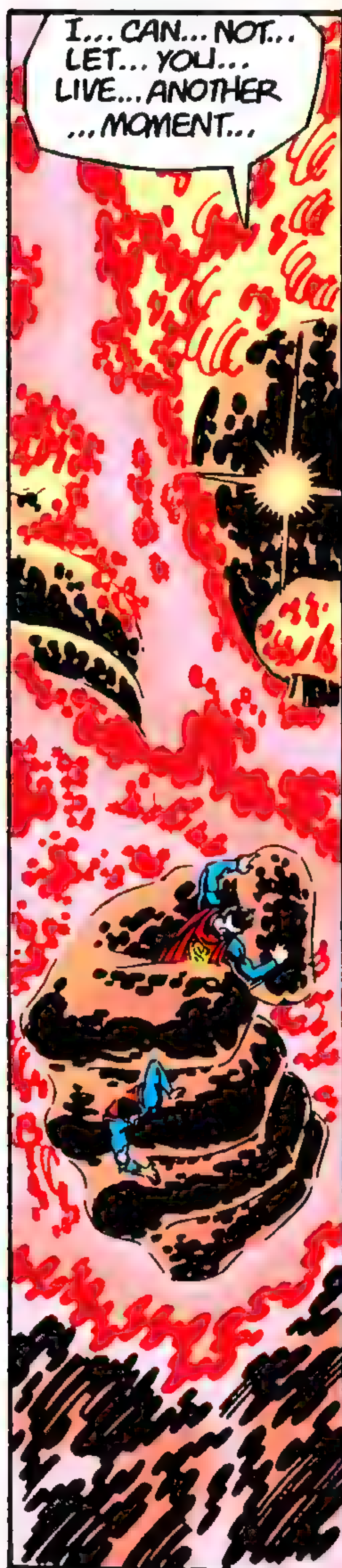


OKAY, LET'S RETURN TO ALEX AND FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT.

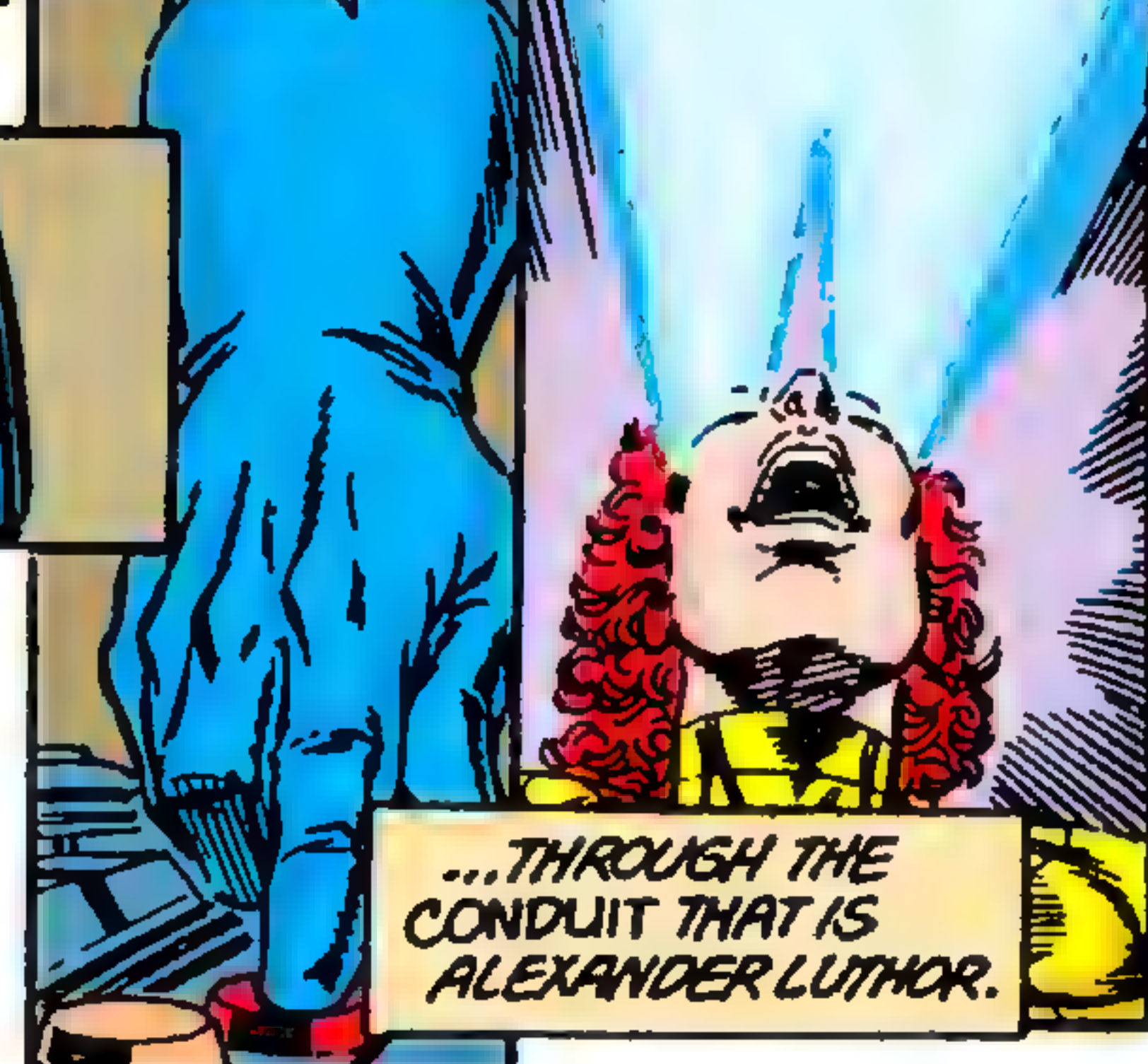
Nooooo...

I...AM NOT YET... FINISHED WITH YOU.

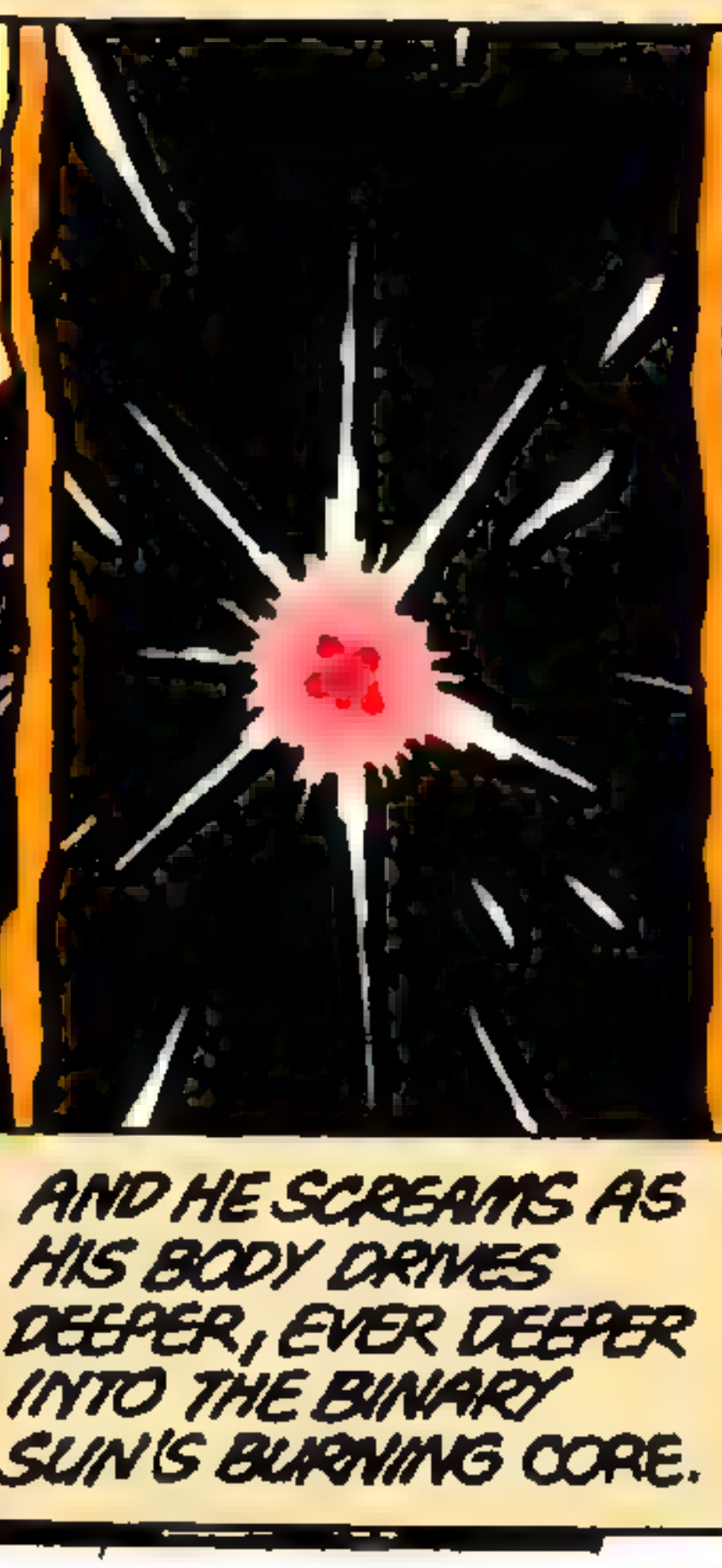
I...HAVE...NOT YET... DESTROYED YOU!

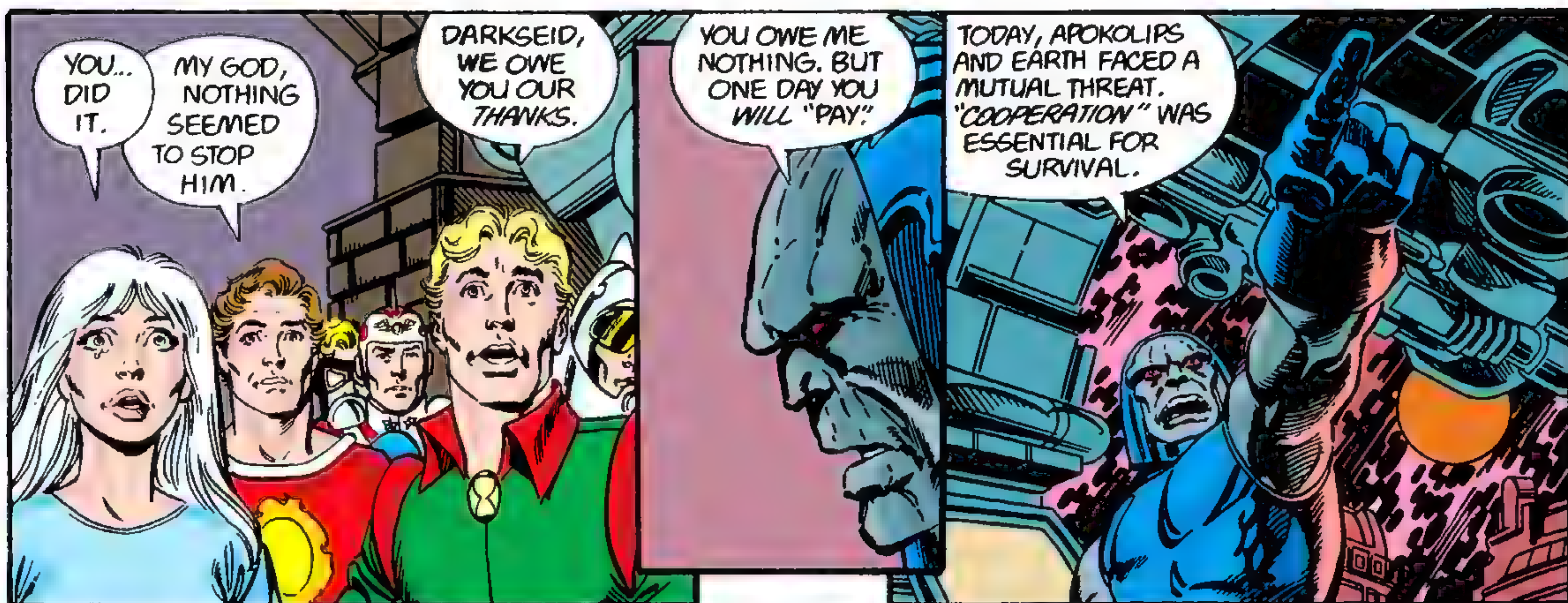


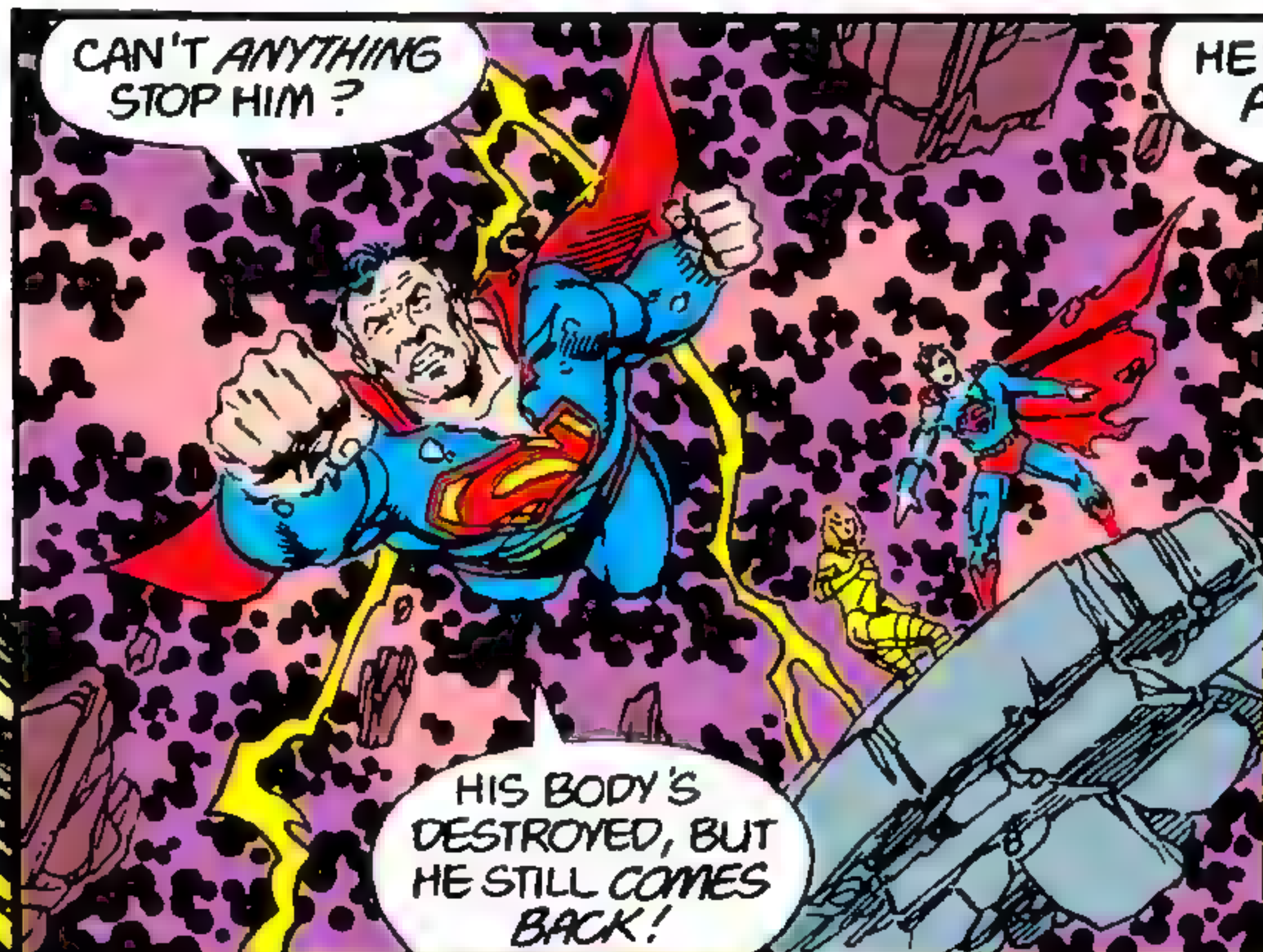
AND THE POWER PULSES OUTWARD...



ALREADY WEAKENED, HE IS SWEEPED OFF THE PLANETOID AND THROWN INTO THE STILL-FLAMING STAR.







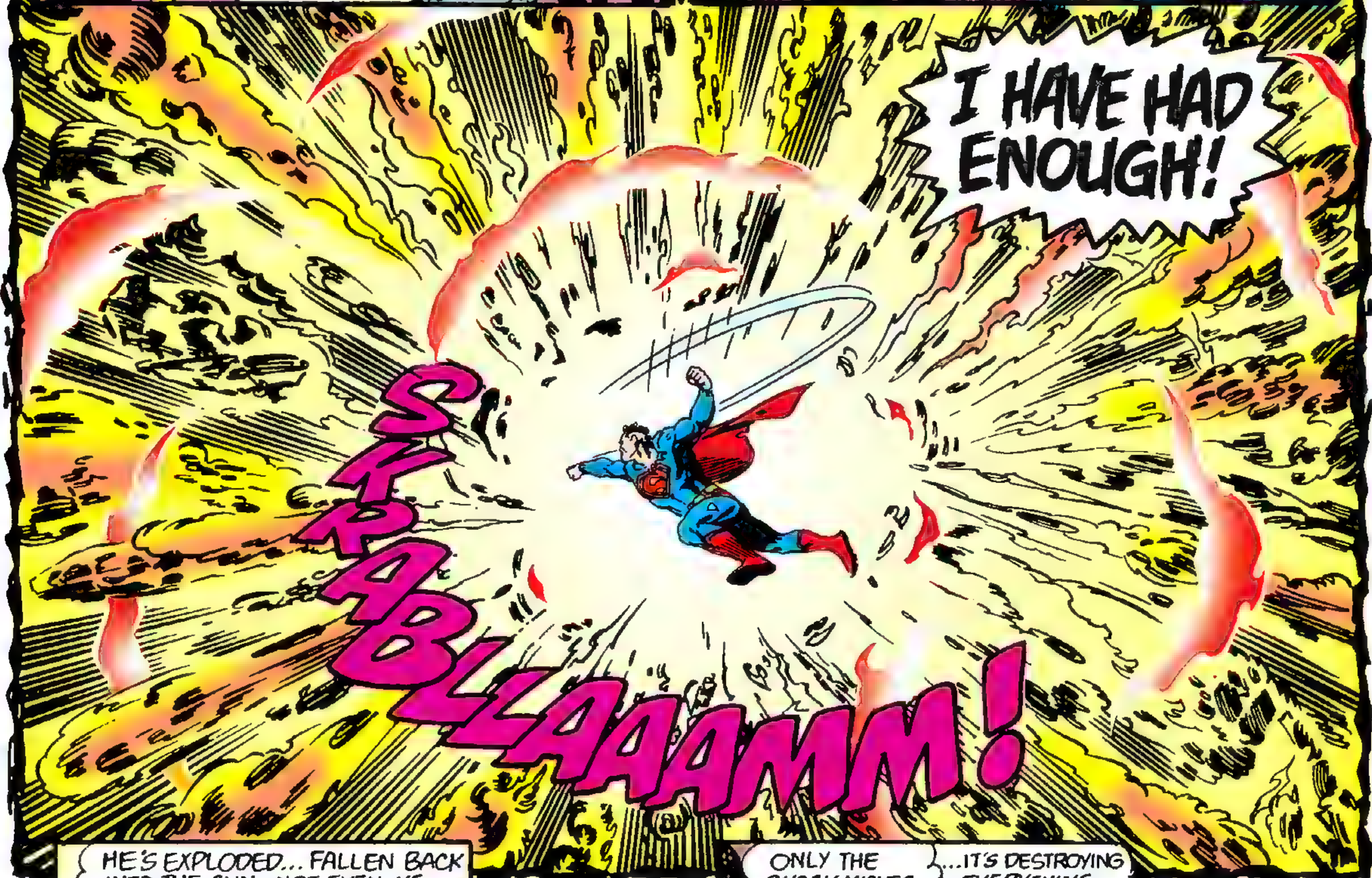
CAN'T ANYTHING STOP HIM?

HIS BODY'S DESTROYED, BUT HE STILL COMES BACK!



HE'S A FIREBALL... A LIVING, KILLING FIREBALL!

NO MORE... NOTHING MATTERS ANY LONGER. I WANT TO SEE HIM DESTROYED!



I HAVE HAD ENOUGH!

SKRABLLAAAMM!



HE'S EXPLODED... FALLEN BACK INTO THE SUN. NOT EVEN HE COULD SURVIVE THAT LAST PUNCH.



GREAT KRYPTON! THE SUN'S IMPLODING... WITH THE ANTI-MONITOR STILL INSIDE.



ONLY THE SHOCK WAVES ARE RIPPLING OUTWARD...

...IT'S DESTROYING EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES!



E-EVERYTHING WILL BE DISINTEGRATED...

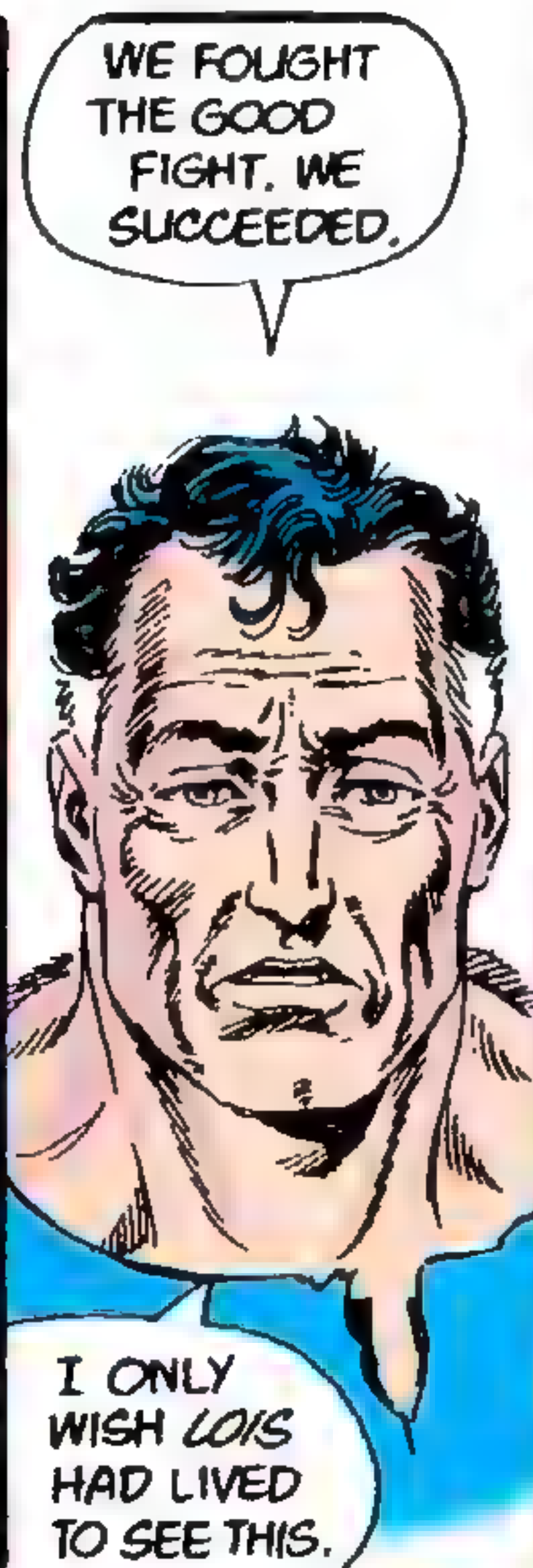
EVERYTHING FOR A MILLION MILES IN ALL DIRECTIONS.



IT'S OVER NOW. I GUESS WE JUST WAIT FOR THE WAVES TO TAKE US TOO.

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN FLY FAR ENOUGH AWAY IN TIME.

I--I DON'T THINK I MIND DYING...NOT NOW.



WE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT. WE SUCCEEDED.

I ONLY WISH LOIS HAD LIVED TO SEE THIS.



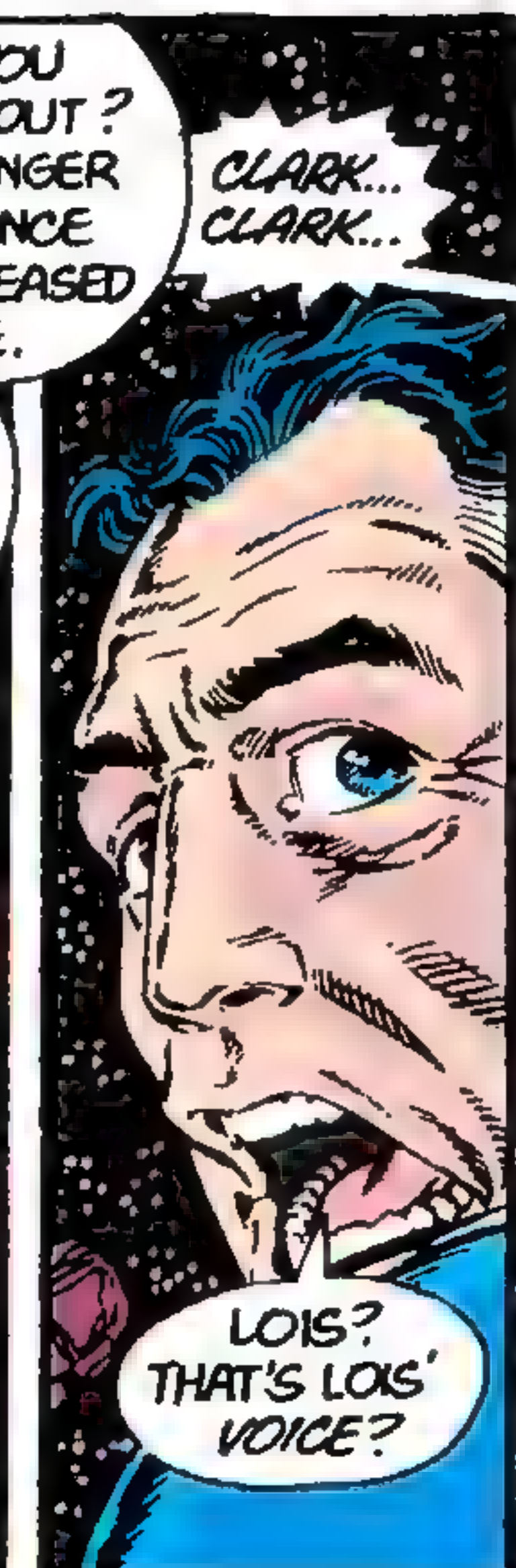
SHE IS ALIVE, SUPERMAN.



ALIVE AND SAFE.

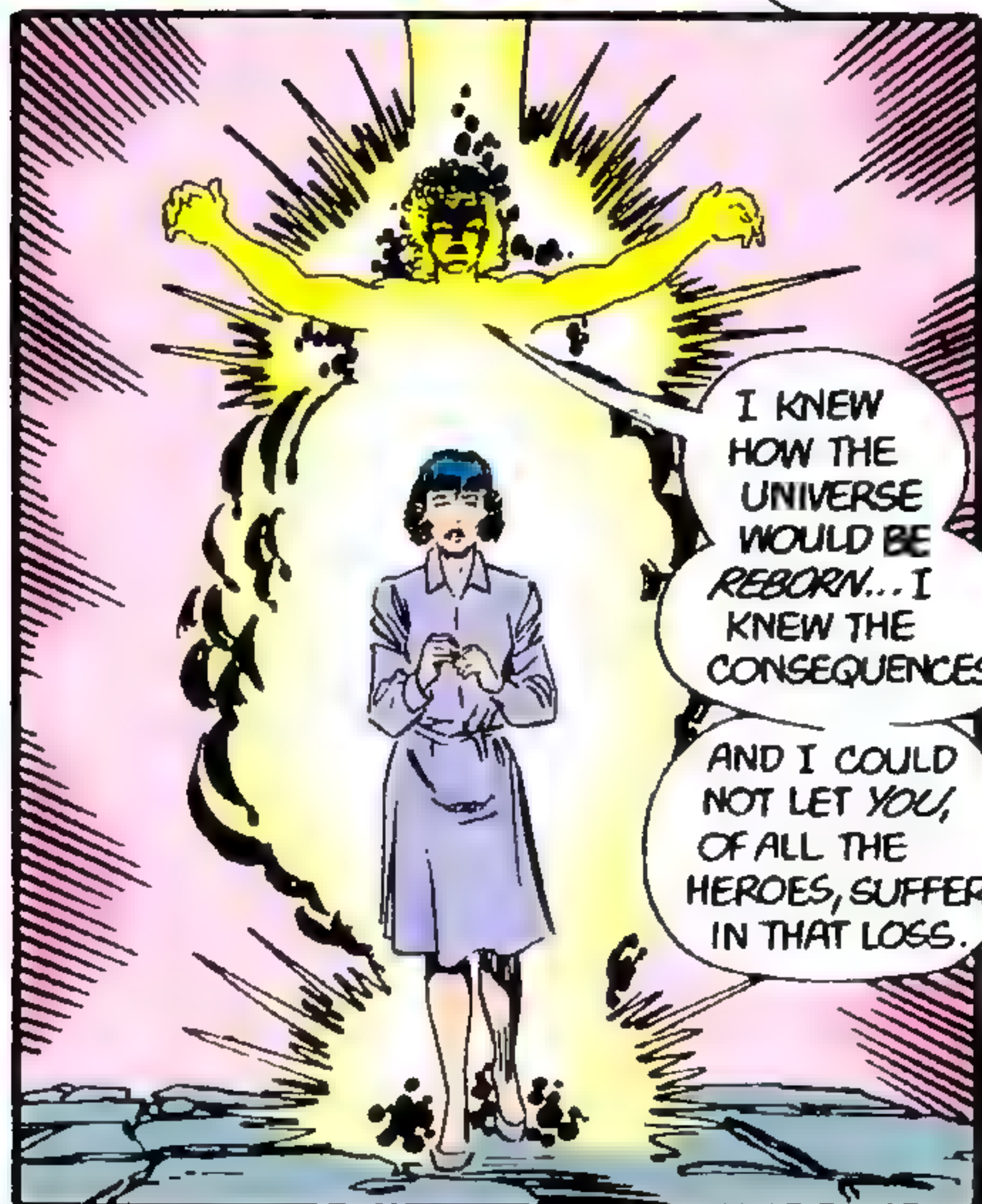
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? SHE NO LONGER EXISTED ONCE EARTH-2 CEASED TO BE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ALEX?



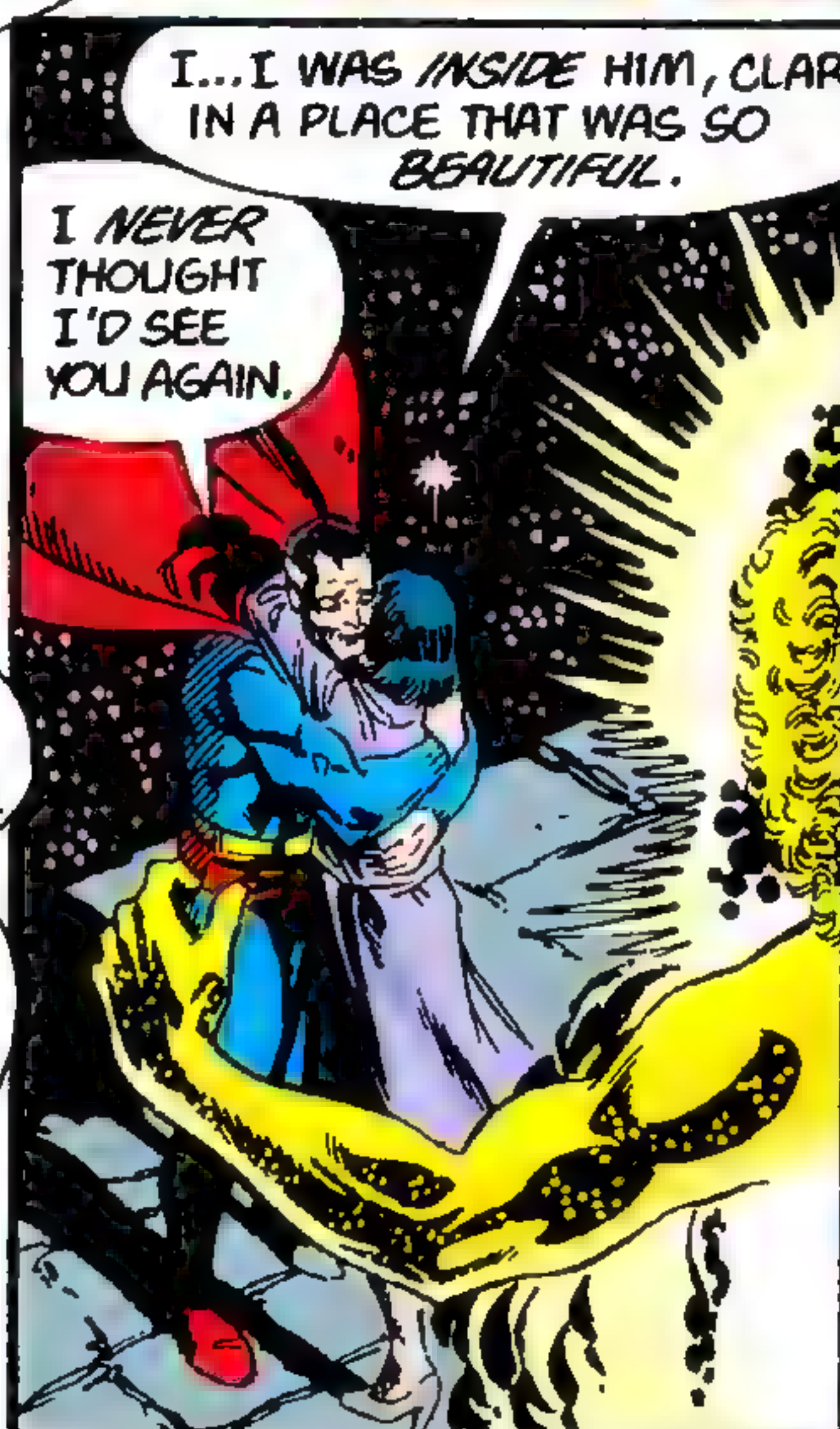
CLARK... CLARK...

LOIS? THAT'S LOIS' VOICE?



I KNEW HOW THE UNIVERSE WOULD BE REBORN... I KNEW THE CONSEQUENCES.

AND I COULD NOT LET YOU, OF ALL THE HEROES, SUFFER IN THAT LOSS.



I... I WAS INSIDE HIM, CLARK... IN A PLACE THAT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN.



I CAN'T TAKE YOU BACK TO EARTH, BUT I AM A TUNNEL INTO THAT OTHER PLACE...

COME INTO ME... WE WILL ALL GO THERE.



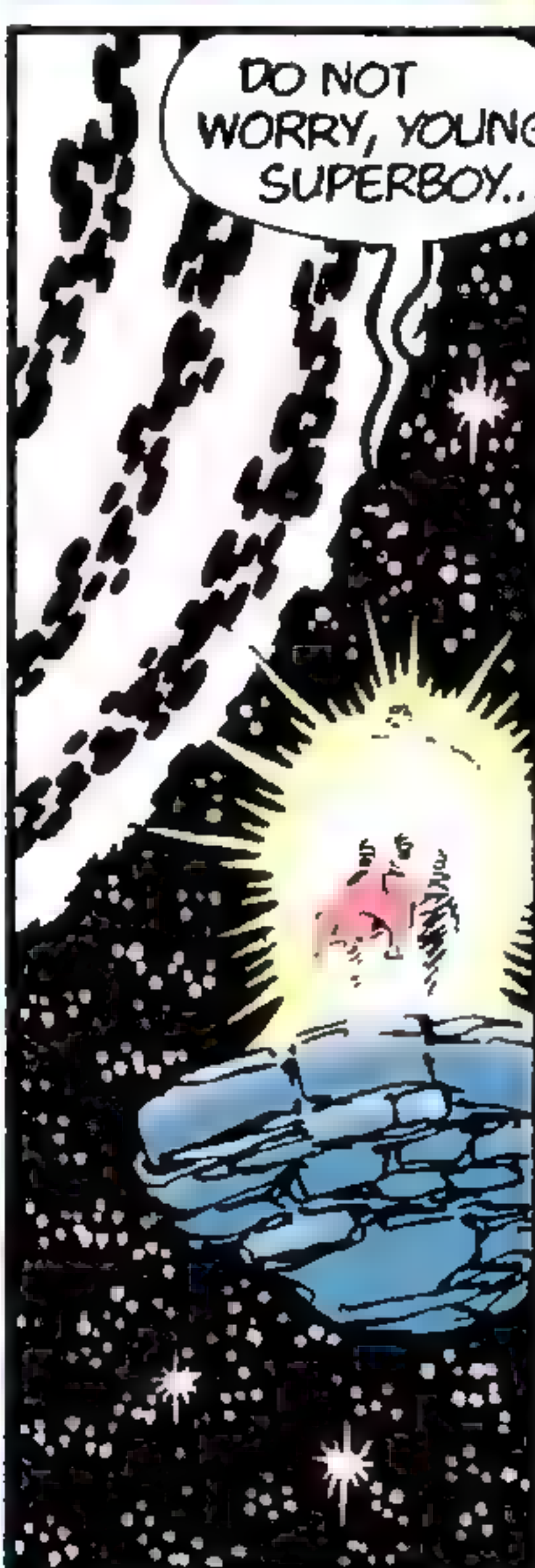
WE CAN BE TOGETHER ALWAYS.

I WANT TO BE WHEREVER YOU ARE.

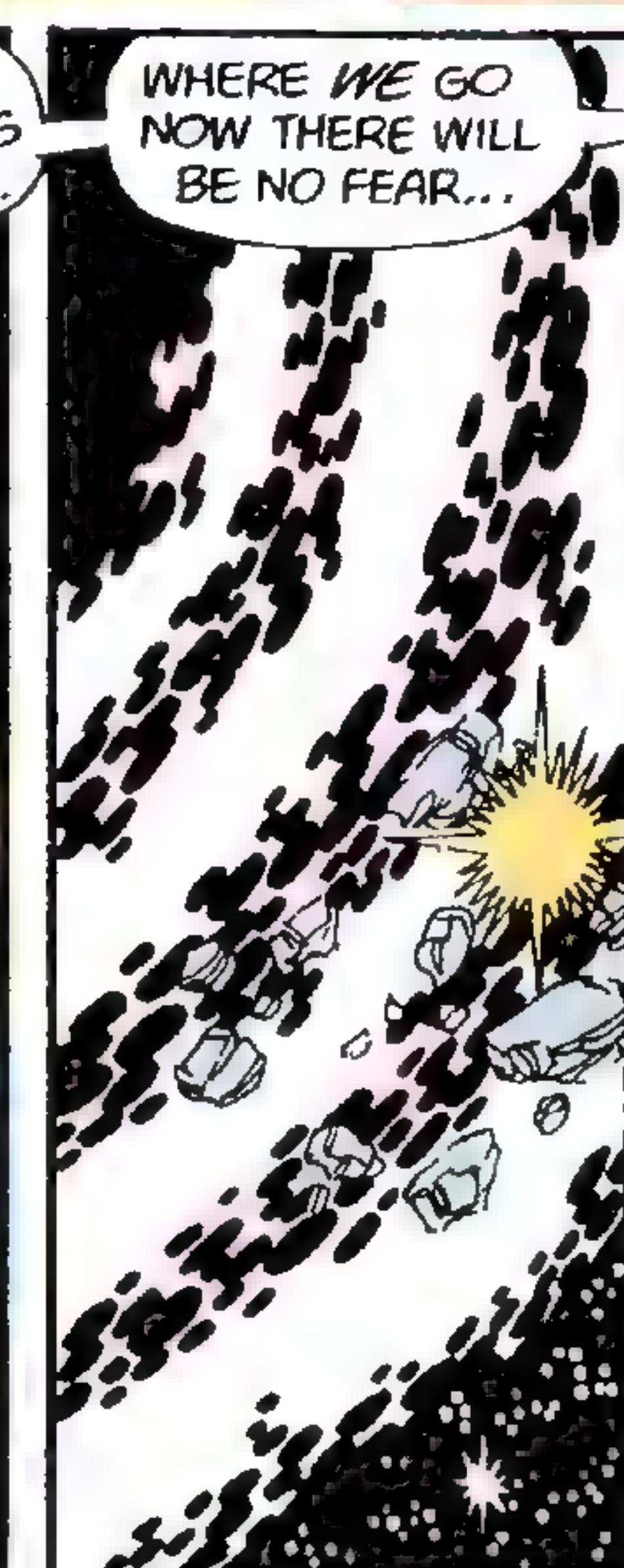


I'M COMING, TOO...

BETTER TO GO INTO THE UNKNOWN THAN DIE HERE ALONE.



DO NOT WORRY, YOUNG SUPERBOY...



WHERE WE GO NOW THERE WILL BE NO FEAR...



ONLY PEACE...

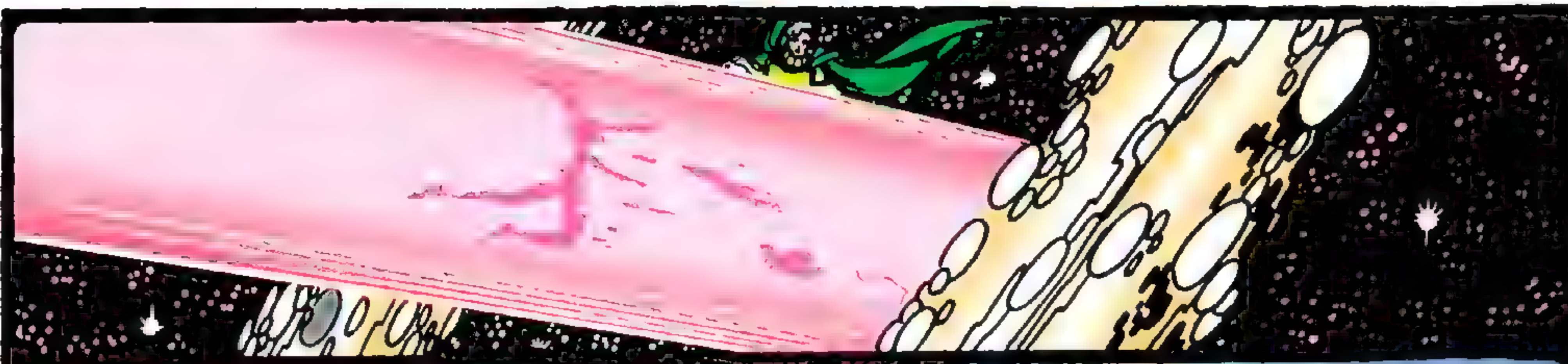


... EVER-LASTING PEACE.

IT IS OVER AT LONG LAST, AND THOUGH MUCH OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED DEFIES EXPLANATION, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE SOME TRUTHS.

"FACT ONE: THE APPARENT DEATH OF WONDER WOMAN.

"WHEN THE MONITOR'S WEAKENED DEATH BEAMS STRUCK THE AMAZON PRINCESS, SHE DID NOT DIE. SHE WAS SOMEHOW SENT BACK THROUGH TIME... DEVOLVING AS SHE DID.



"FROM WOMAN..."

"TO GIRL..."

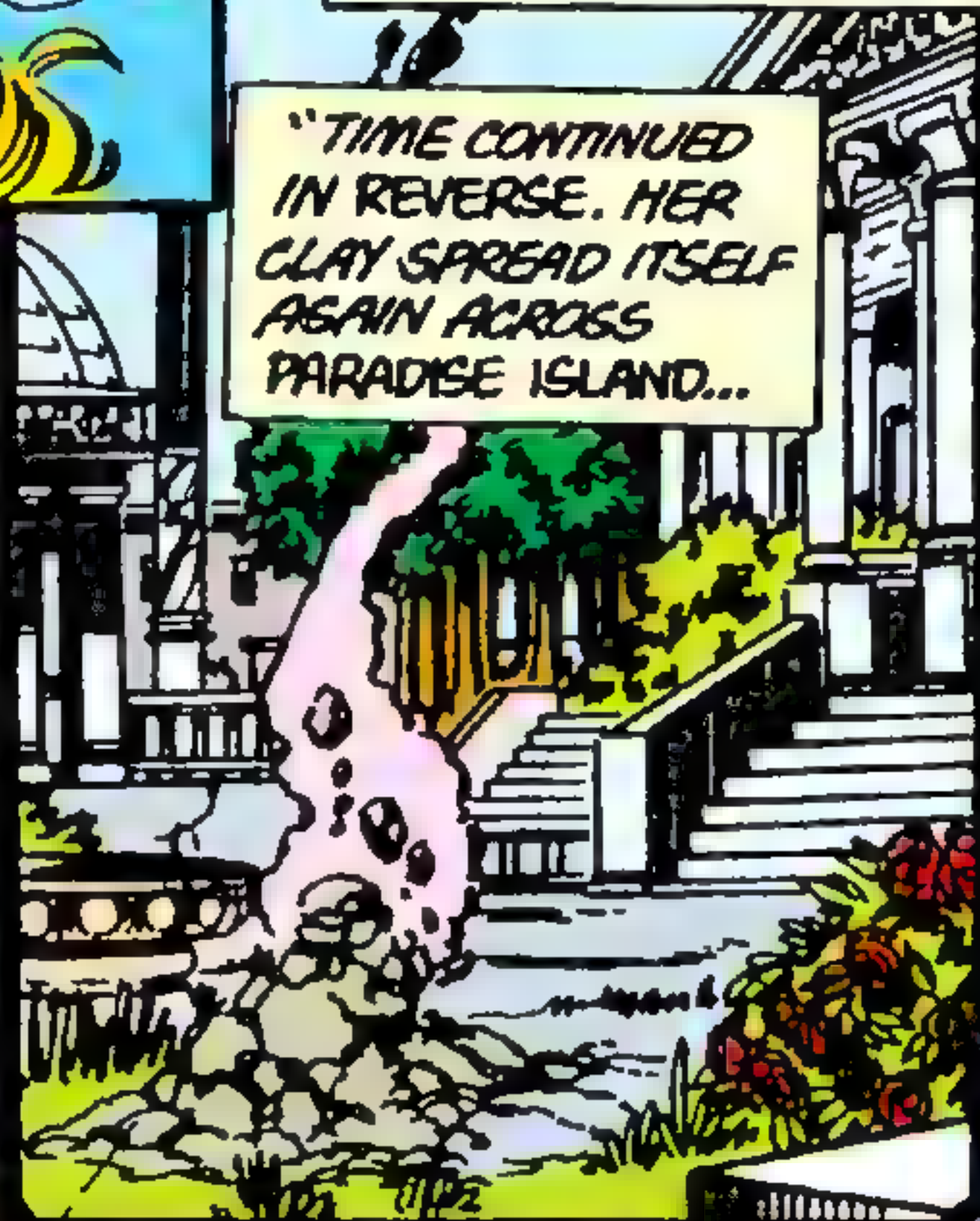
"TO INFANT."

"TO HER ORIGINAL STATE OF CREATION."



"WONDER WOMAN WAS NOT BORN OF FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT FORMED FROM CLAY AND GIVEN LIFE BY THE GODS THEMSELVES.

"TIME CONTINUED IN REVERSE. HER CLAY SPREAD ITSELF AGAIN ACROSS PARADISE ISLAND..."



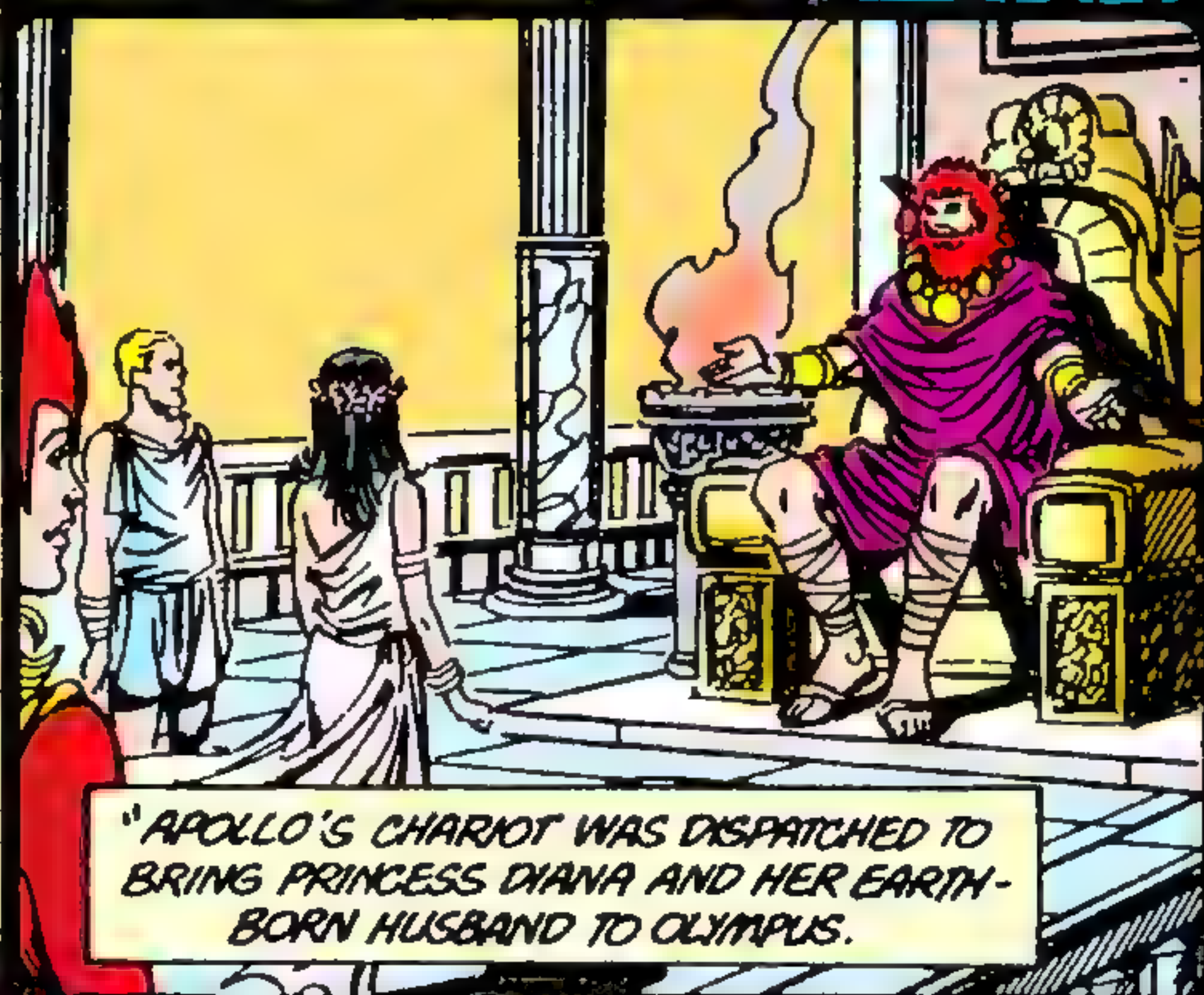
"AND THE AMAZONS WERE RETURNED TO THE GRECIAN ISLE THEY HAD FLED.

"FACT TWO: MOUNT OLYMPUS.



"ZEUS LOOKED DOWN FROM ON HIGH AND SAW A GRAVE MISJUSTICE HAD BEEN DEALT.

"EARTH-2'S WONDER WOMAN, BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE, WISE AS ATHENA, SWIFTER THAN MERCURY, AND STRONGER THAN HERCULES, HAD NO WORLD TO CALL HER OWN. THE KING OF THE GODS KNEW HER GREAT POWERS HAD COME FROM THE GODS. SHE COULD NOT BE ABANDONED.



"APOLLO'S CHARIOT WAS DISPATCHED TO BRING PRINCESS DIANA AND HER EARTH-BORN HUSBAND TO OLYMPUS.

"AND THERE THEY WOULD LIVE... HAPPILY EVER AFTER.





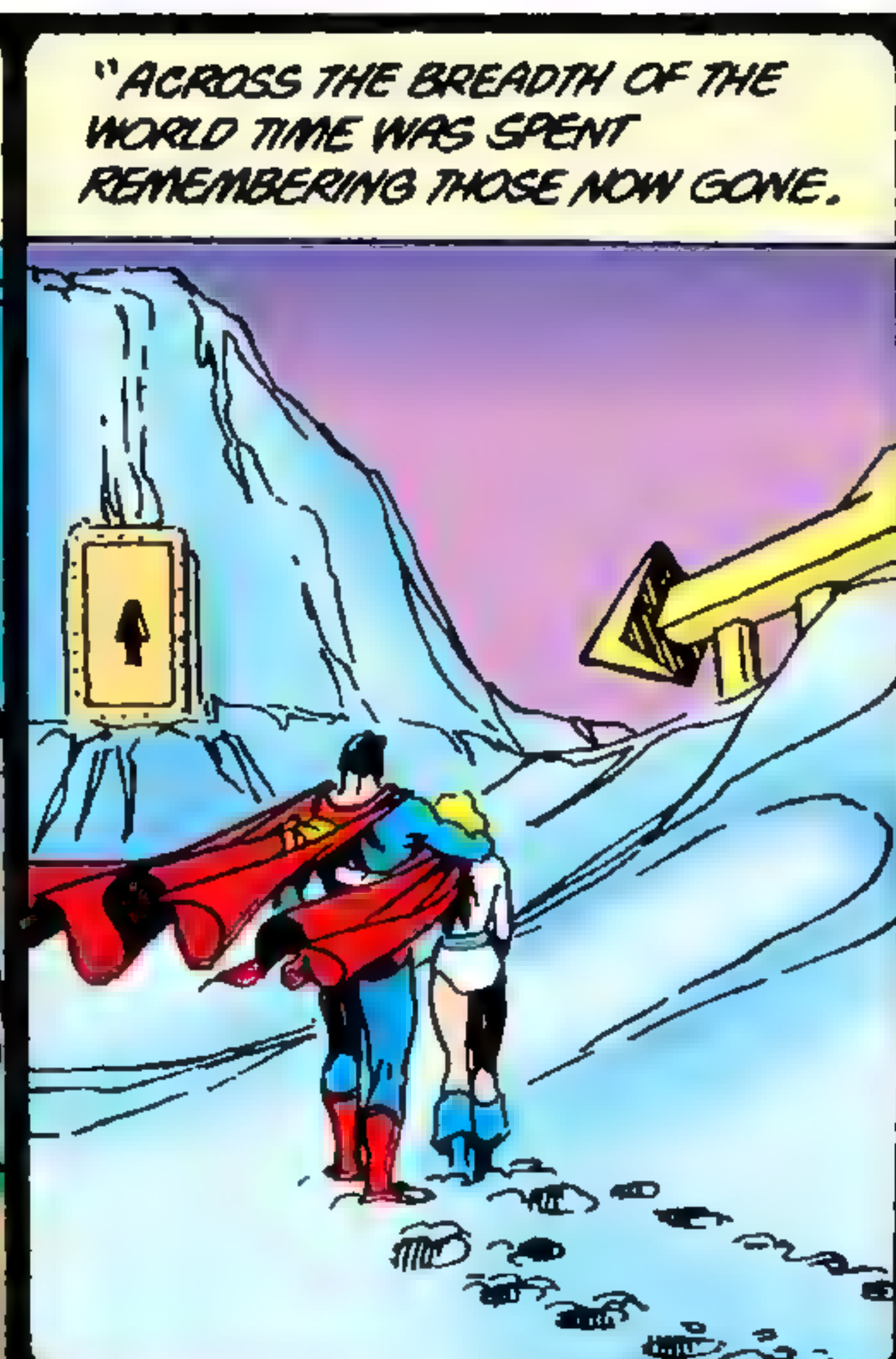
"FACT THREE: THE DEATHS."

THE BODIES OF ROBIN, HUNTRESS, AND KOLE WERE NEVER FOUND. STILL, THERE WERE GRAVESIDE SERVICES.

"THEY WOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN."

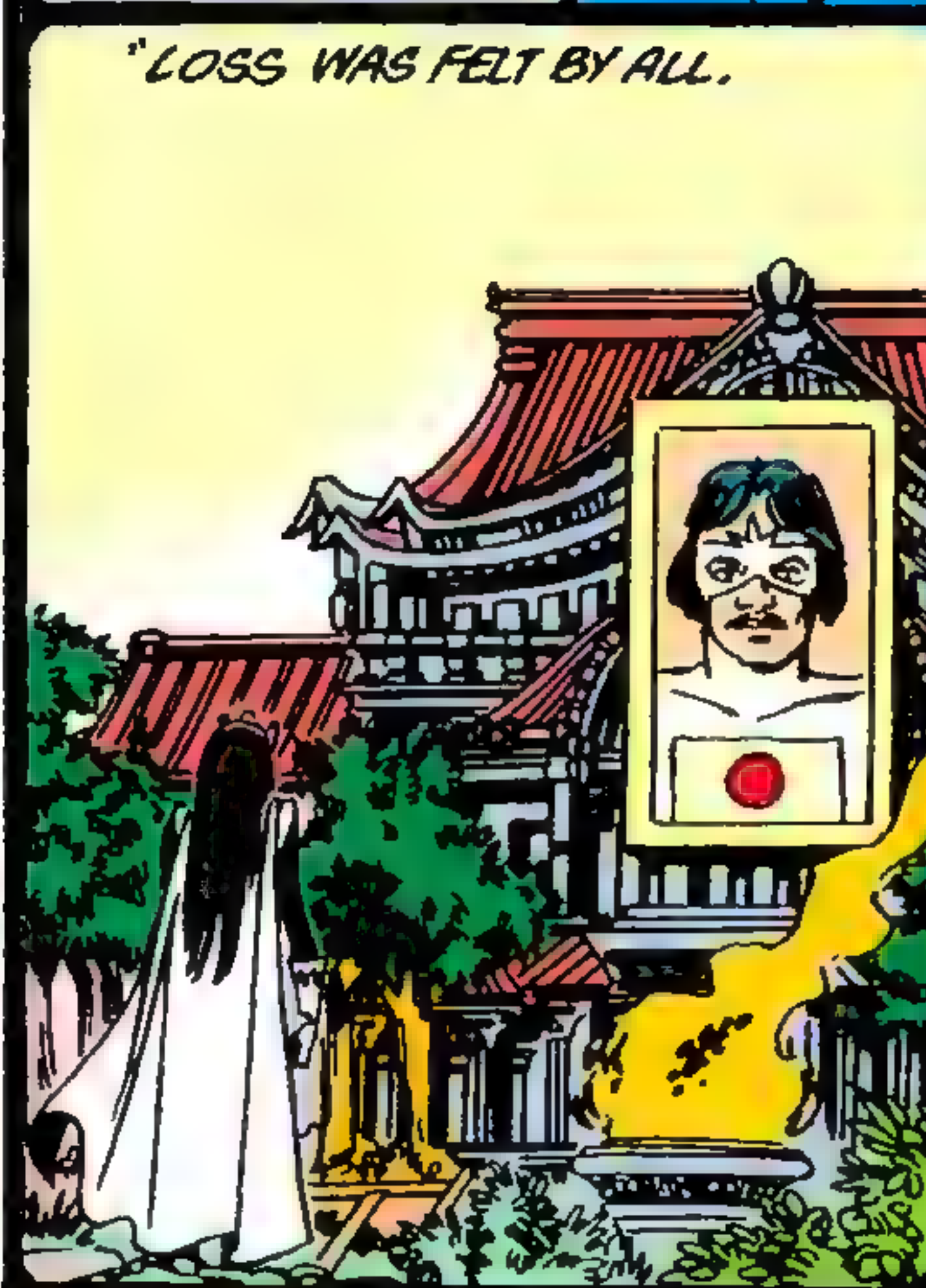


"IN ATLANTIS THEY MOURNED LORI LEMARIS AND TULA, WHO HAD CALLED HERSELF AQUAGIRL."

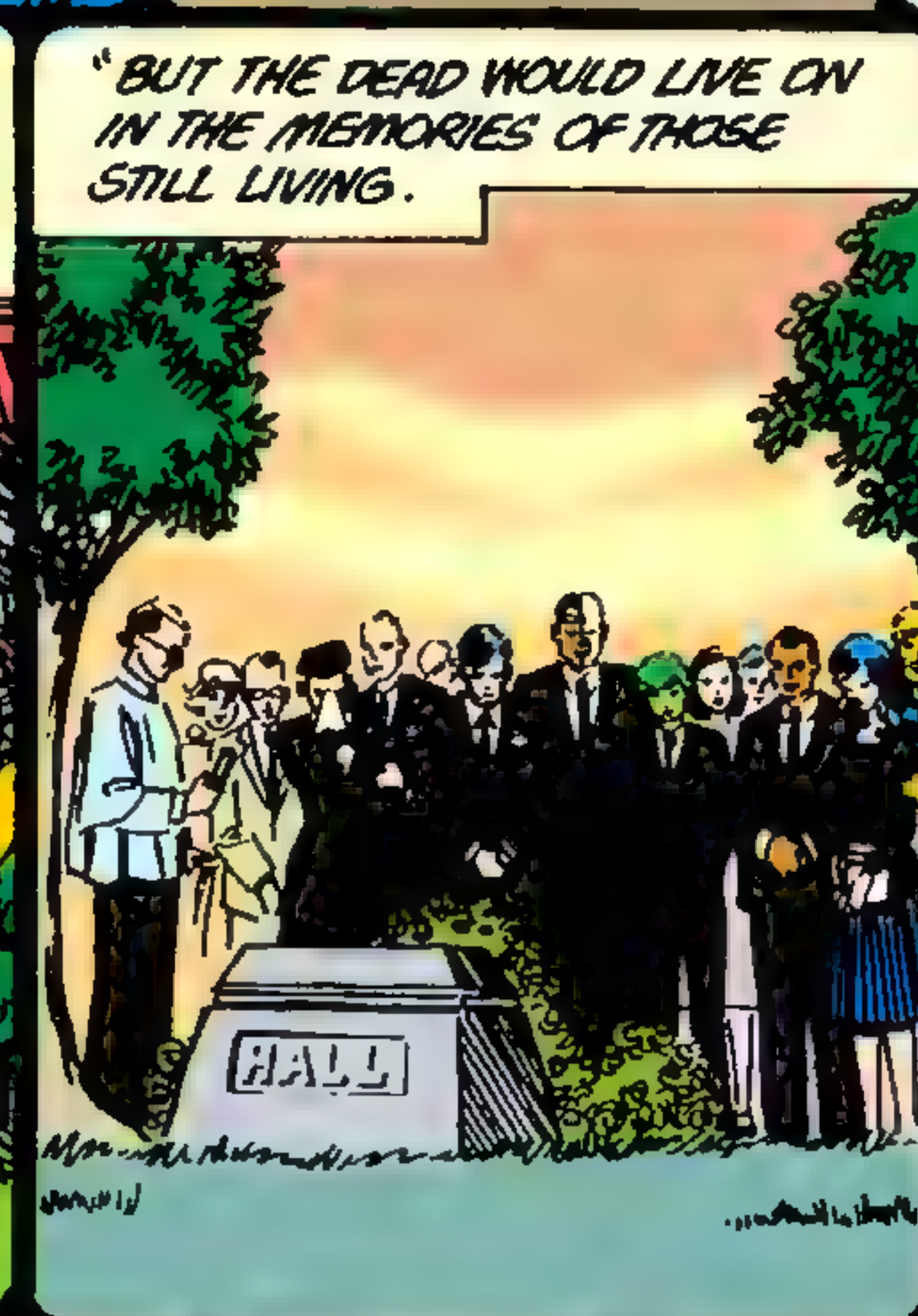


"ACROSS THE BREADTH OF THE WORLD TIME WAS SPENT REMEMBERING THOSE NOW GONE."

AND SO IT GOES. FROM DEATH COMES LIFE, AND EACH LIFE BRINGS HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER, HAPPIER FUTURE.



"LOSS WAS FELT BY ALL."



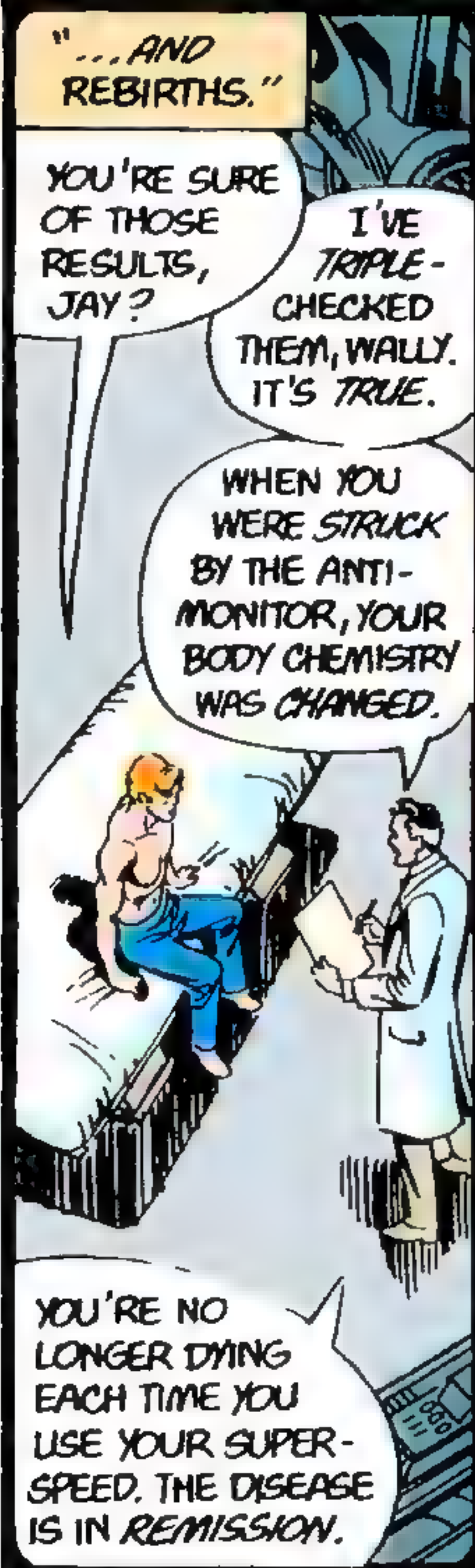
"BUT THE DEAD WOULD LIVE ON IN THE MEMORIES OF THOSE STILL LIVING."



"YES, THERE WERE DEATHS, BUT THERE WERE ALSO BIRTHS..."

WITH THE END OF THE MULTIVERSE AND THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW EARTH, THERE NOW IS ONE CONSISTENT PAST.

BUT WHAT OF THE FUTURE? THOSE DIVERGENT HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN EXPLAINED?



"...AND REBIRTHS."

YOU'RE SURE OF THOSE RESULTS, JAY?

I'VE TRIPLE-CHECKED THEM, WALLY. IT'S TRUE.

WHEN YOU WERE STRUCK BY THE ANTI-MONITOR, YOUR BODY CHEMISTRY WAS CHANGED.

YOU'RE NO LONGER DYING EACH TIME YOU USE YOUR SUPER-SPEED. THE DISEASE IS IN REMISSION.



AND THE FASTEST I CAN RUN NOW IS THE SPEED OF SOUND. THAT'S GREAT, JAY... REALLY GREAT.

WHICH MAKES WHAT I HAVE TO SAY MORE MEANINGFUL.

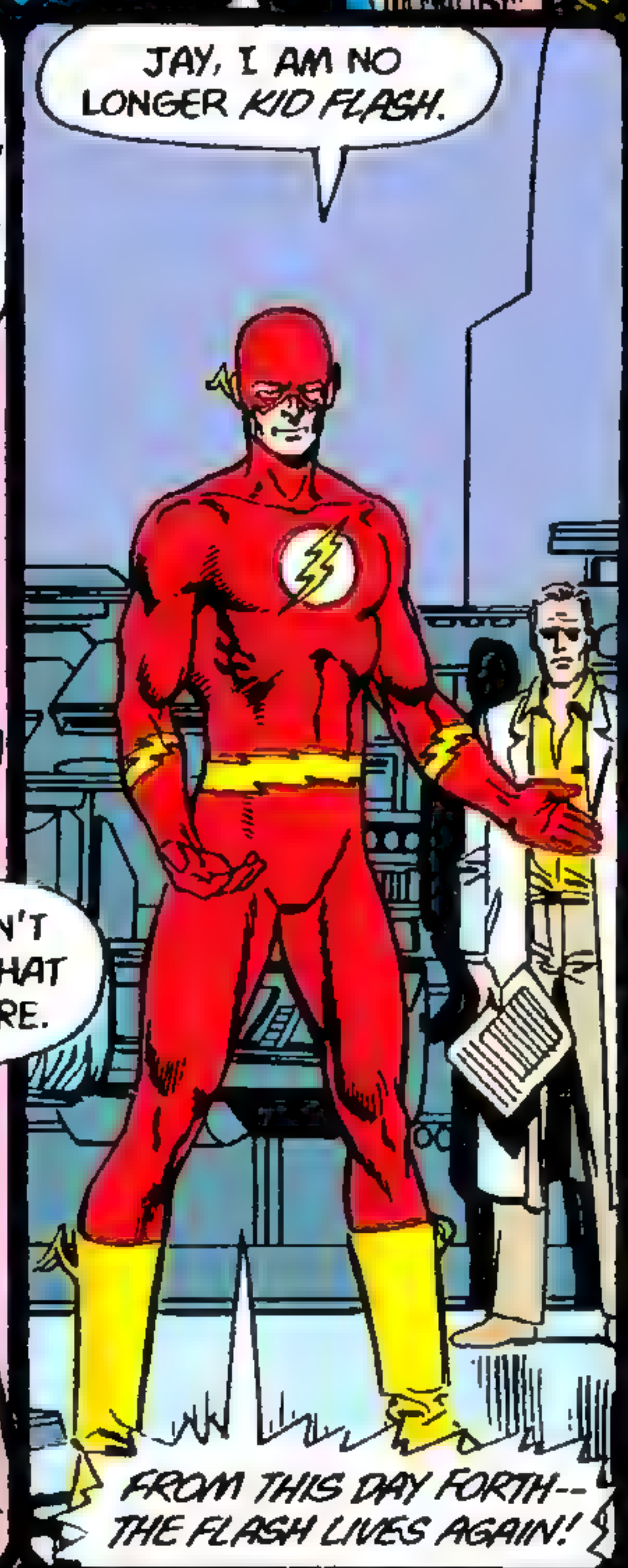


BARRY DIED SAVING US. I WANT THE FLASH-- HIS FLASH REMEMBERED.



I BEGAN MY SUPER-SPEED CAREER WEARING HIS COSTUME. I ONLY CHANGED TO ESTABLISH MY OWN IDENTITY.

I DON'T NEED THAT ANYMORE.



JAY, I AM NO LONGER KID FLASH.

FROM THIS DAY FORTH-- THE FLASH LIVES AGAIN!



THE FULL TALE WILL BE TOLD ANOTHER TIME, BUT SOME FACTS ARE KNOWN. EVENTS HAVE BEEN ALTERED... NO SINGLE EARTH'S FUTURE SURVIVED INTACT.

"IN THIS NEW WORLD THERE IS NO GREAT DISASTER. BUT A LOST CHILD WILL STILL BE FOUND IN COMMAND D..."

"... THIS TIME BY GENERAL HORATIO TOMORROW OF THE PLANETEERS. THE CHILD WILL BE CALLED THOMAS."

"THERE WILL BE WARS, AND EACH WAR WILL CREATE ITS OWN HEROES."

"JONAH HEX CAME FROM THE PAST, BUT NOW HE FIGHTS IN A FUTURE GONE MAD."

"SADDEST OF ALL IS THE SPLIT THAT HAS RUPTURED THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE."

A SPLIT FROM WHICH THEY MAY NEVER RECOVER.

LYLA, ARE YOU DONE YET?

THERE'S SO MUCH TO WRITE ABOUT. SO MANY THINGS THAT NEED EXPLAINING.

BUT I STILL HAVEN'T RESEARCHED IT ALL.

WHEN I COMPLETE THE MONITOR'S TAPES, I MUST BE CERTAIN OF MY FACTS.

LYLA, WE WANT YOU TO COME WITH US. HELP US EXPLORE OUR NEW WORLD.

YOU WILL COME, PLEASE?

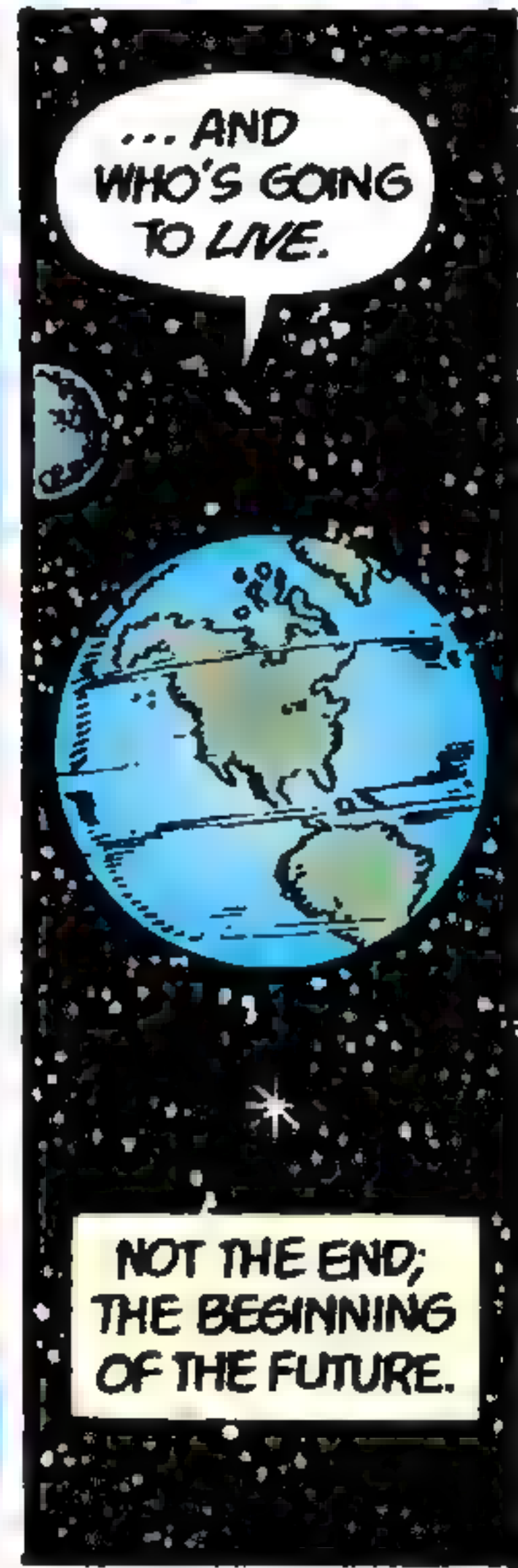
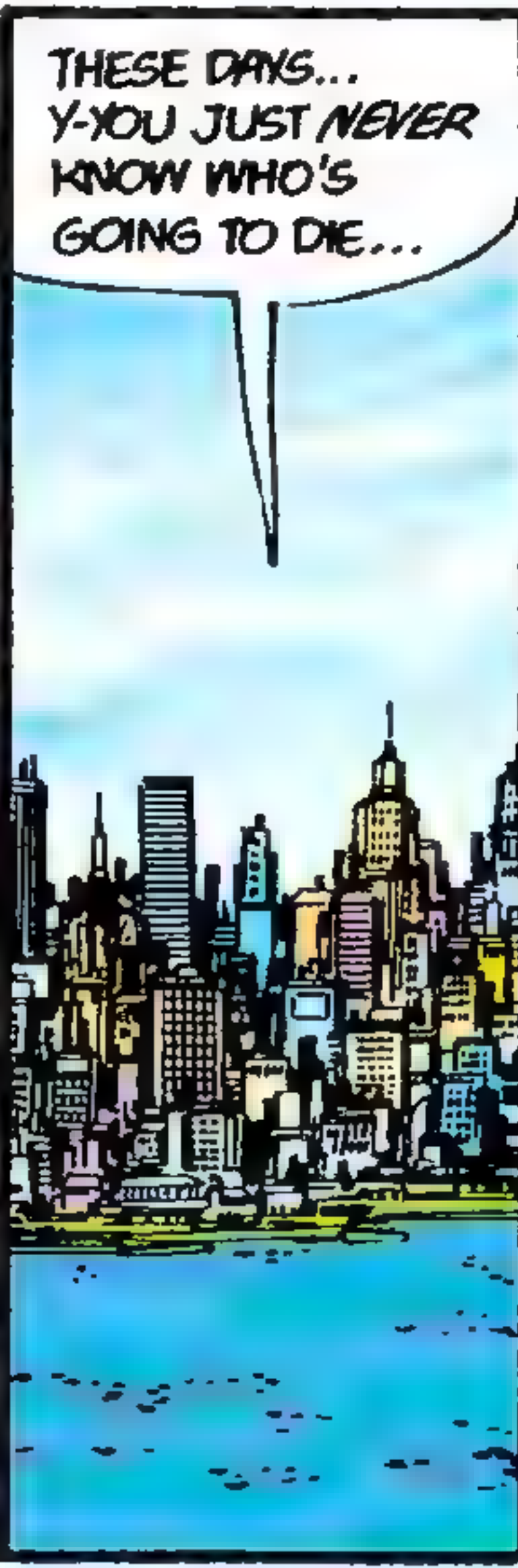
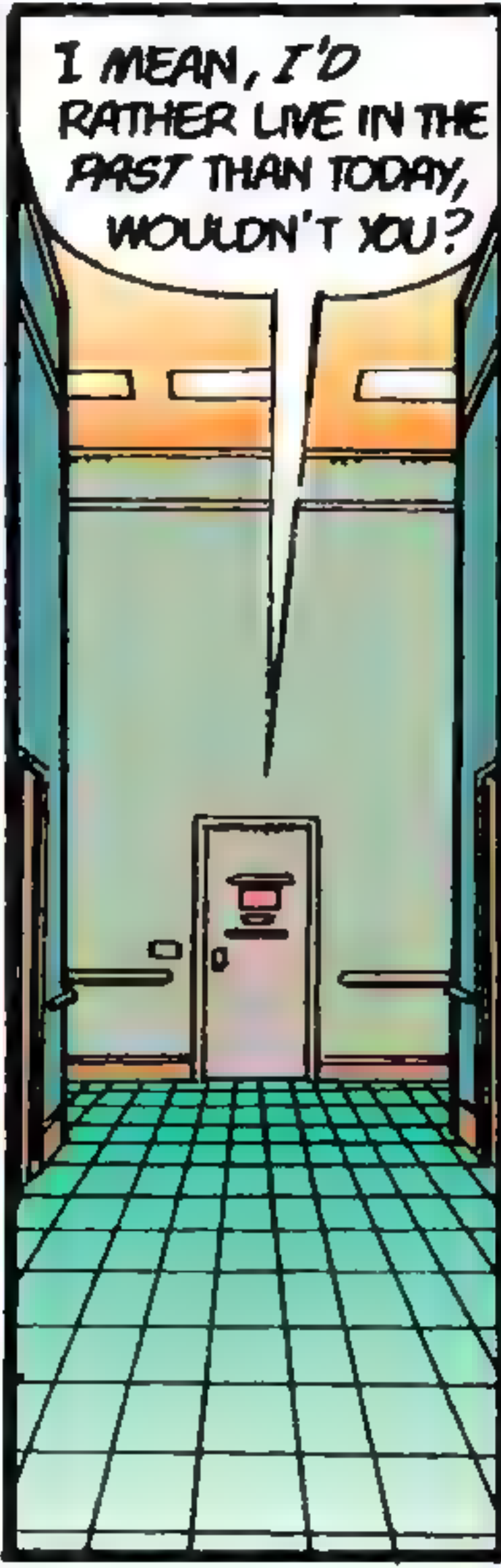
THE MONITOR ONCE TOLD ME THAT LIFE MUST NEVER STAND STILL. IT MUST CONSTANTLY MOVE AHEAD.

WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THE PAST, BUT WE SHOULD ALWAYS LOOK TO THE FUTURE...

... BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS, BUT I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT TOMORROW WILL BRING.

EPILOGUE





Superman Post-Crisis Chronology

Volume 009 Crisis on Infinite Earths

"Underworlds", first appeared in *Batman and Superman: World's Finest* issue #4, released May, 1999

Karl Kesel (writer), Dave Taylor (penciller), Robert Campanella (inker)

"A Woman's Work", first appeared in *Batman and Superman: World's Finest* issue #5, released June, 1999

Karl Kesel (writer), Dave Taylor (penciller), Tom Morgan (penciller), Robert Campanella (inker)

"Like a Tombstone in the Sky", first appeared in *JLA: Incarnations* issue #3, released July, 2001

John Ostrander (writer), Val Semeiks (penciller), Prentis Rollins (inker)

"Year of the Comet", first appeared in *DC Comics Presents* issue #87, released September, 1985

Elliot S! Maggin (writer), Curt Swan (penciller), Eduardo Barreto (penciller), Al Williamson (inker), Eduardo Barreto (inker)

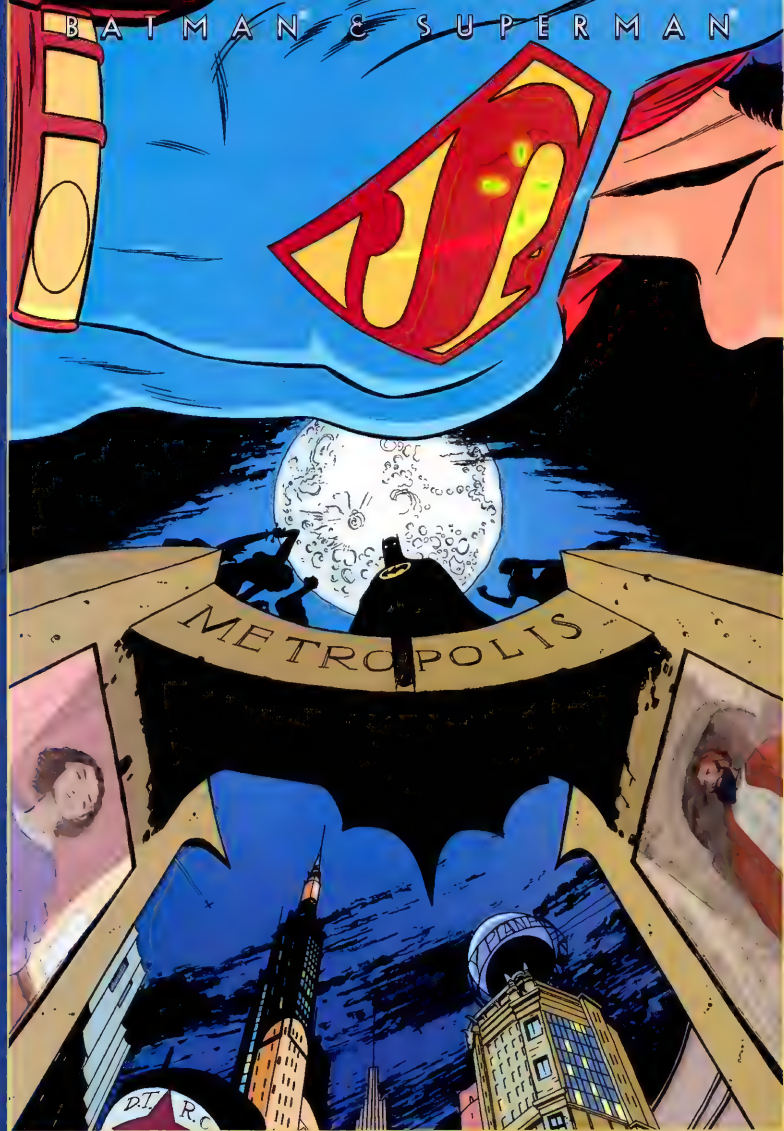
"Aftershock", first appeared in *Crisis on Infinite Earths* issue #11, released December, 1985

Marv Wolfman (writer), George Pérez (penciller), Dick Giordano (inker), George Pérez (inker), Jerry Ordway (inker), Mike Decarlo (inker)

"Final Crisis", first appeared in *Crisis on Infinite Earths* issue #12, released January, 1986

Marv Wolfman (writer), George Pérez (penciller), Dick Giordano (inker), George Pérez (inker), Jerry Ordway (inker), Mike Decarlo (inker)

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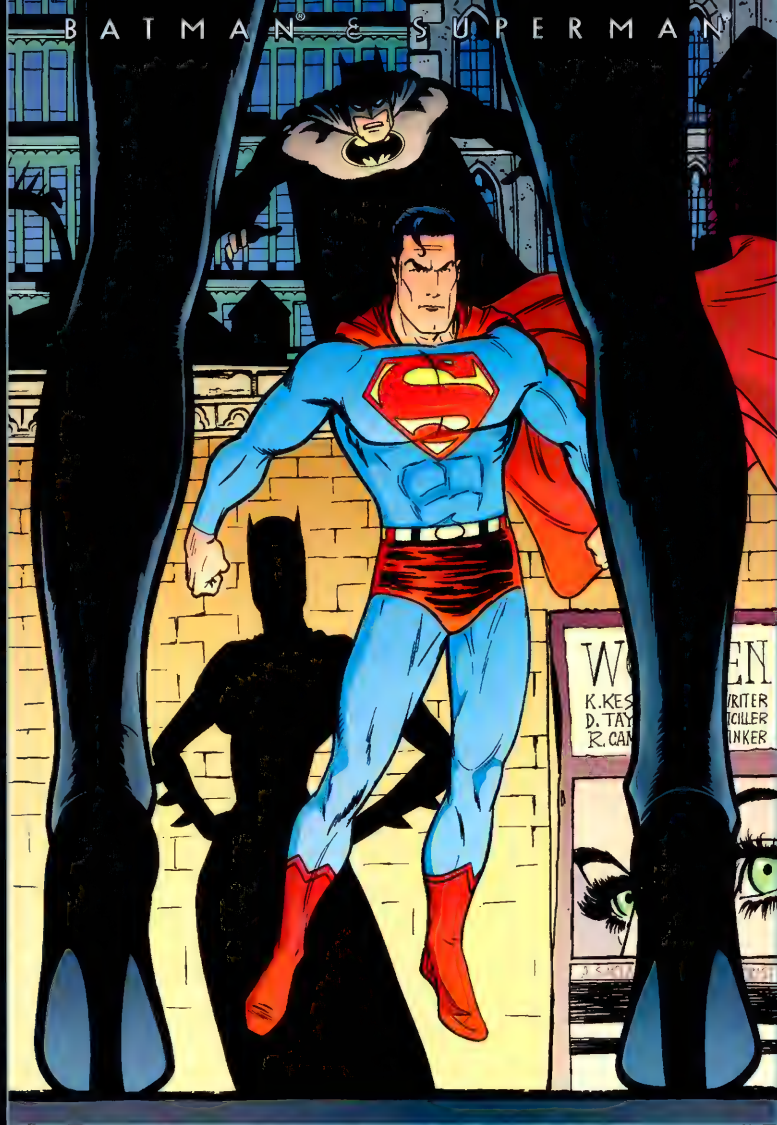
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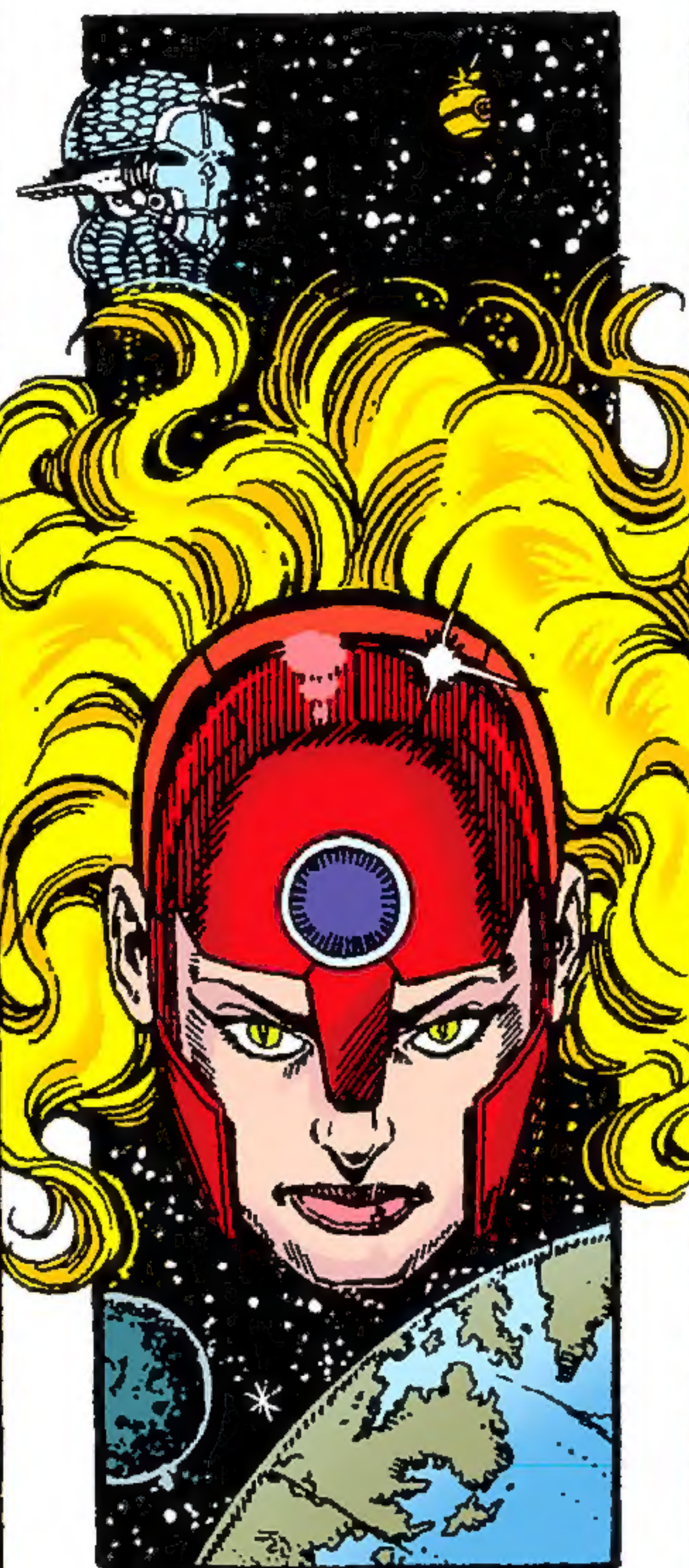
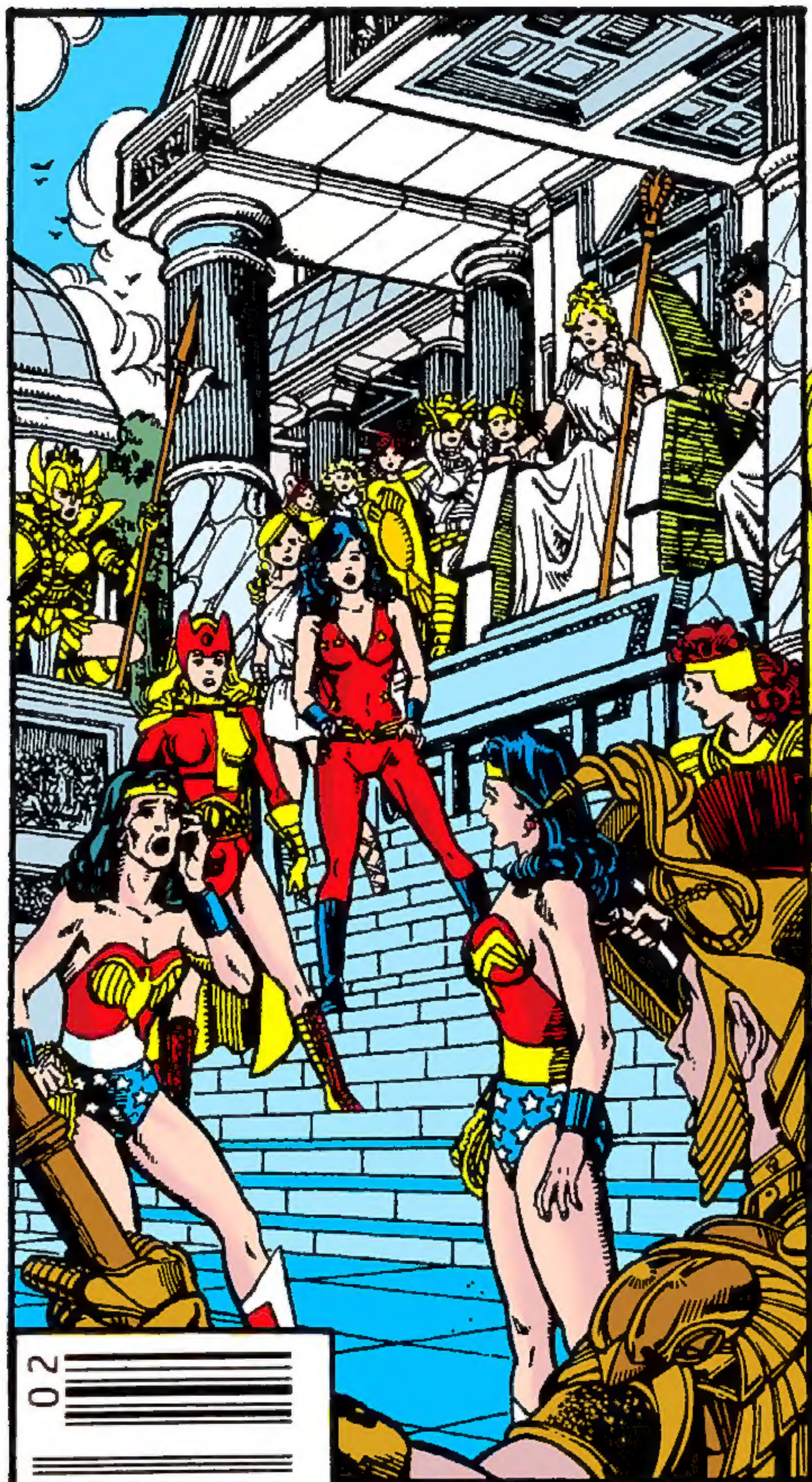
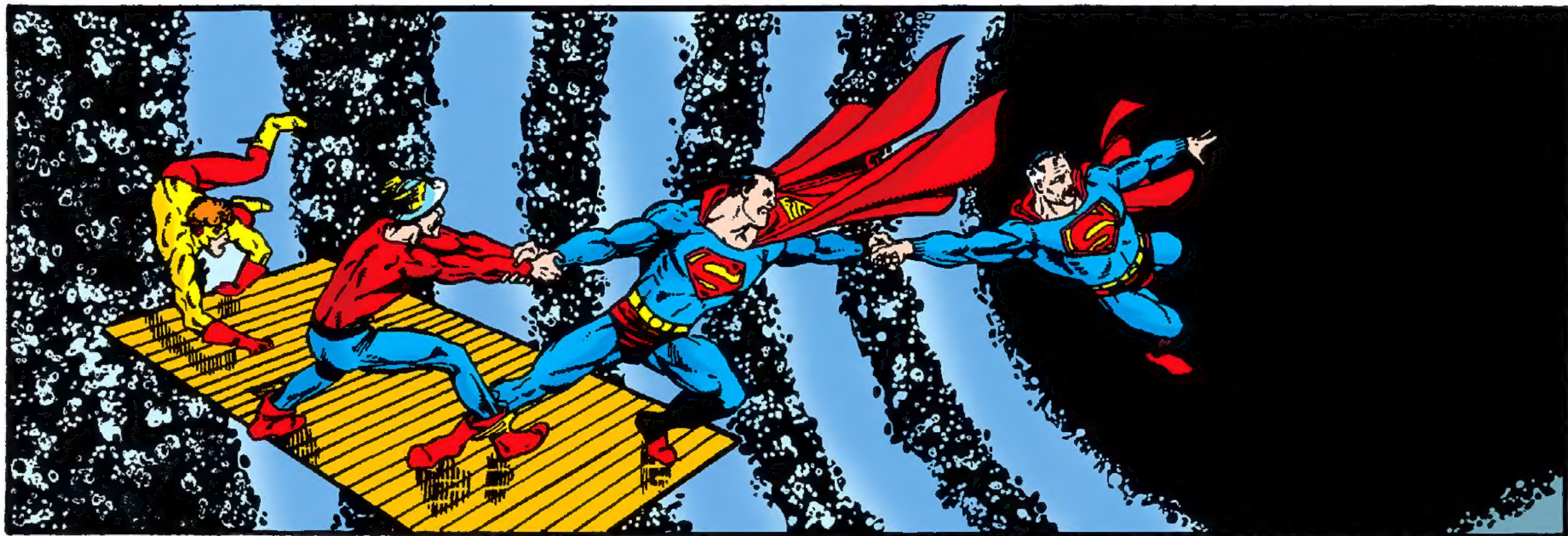
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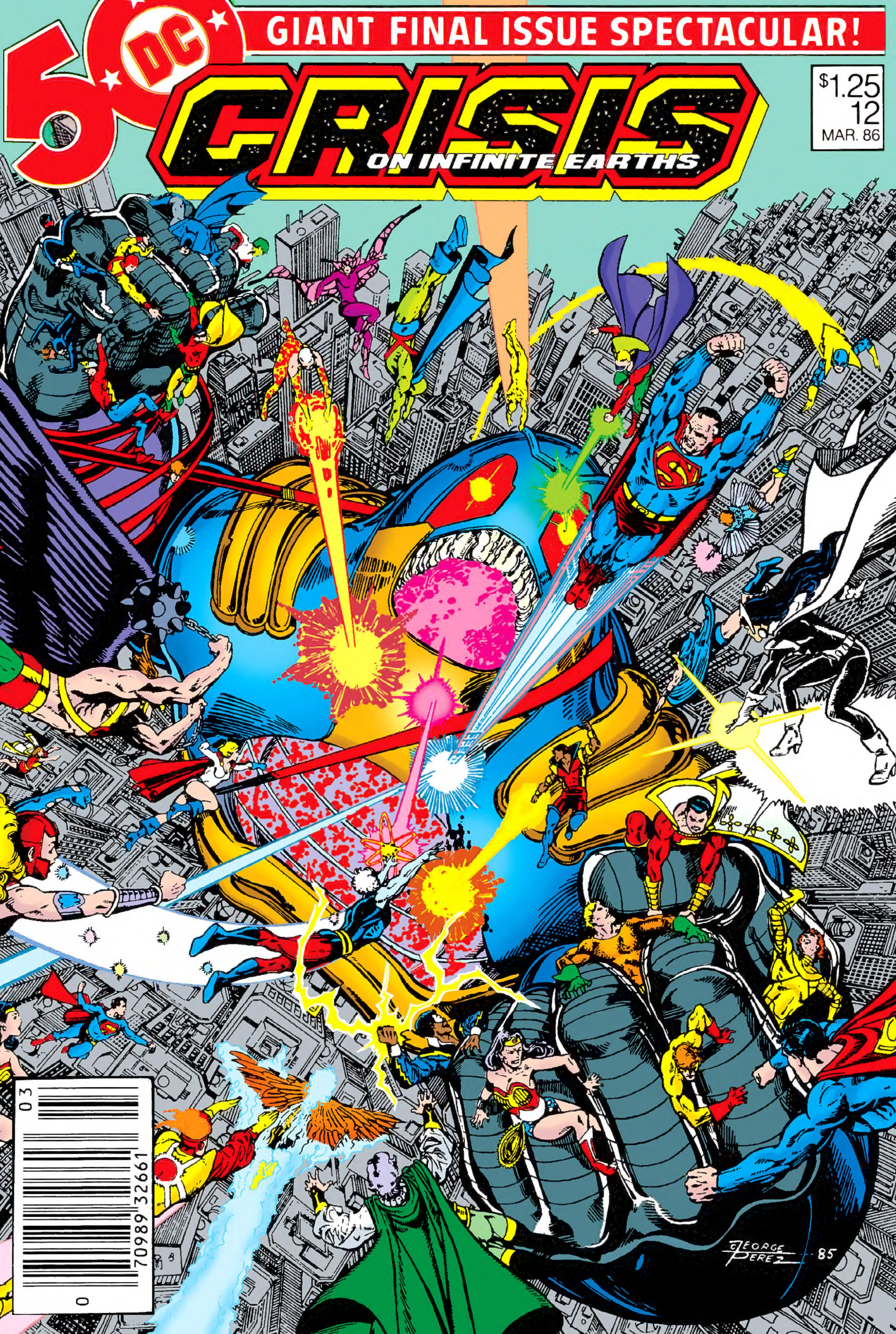
BY MARV WOLFMAN, GEORGE PÉREZ & JERRY ORDWAY

CRISIS

ON INFINITE EARTHS

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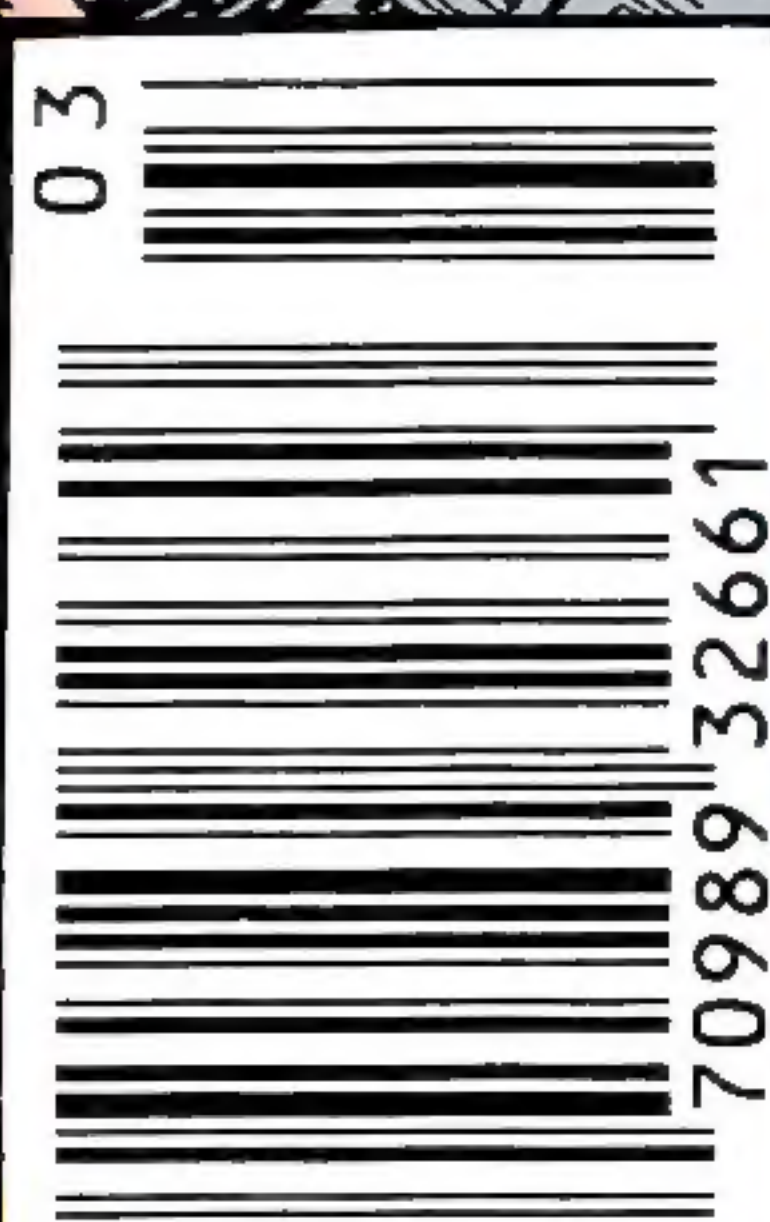
GIANT FINAL ISSUE SPECTACULAR!

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CRISIS

ON INFINITE EARTHS

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GEORGE PEREZ 85